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Volume XXIII, Issue No. 127

THURSDAY JUNE 27, 2013

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

WORLD



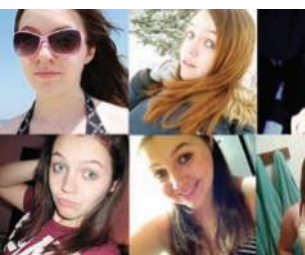
Qatar ruler hands over power to his son. **► PAGE 16**

ENVIRONMENT



President Obama launches a major second-term drive to combat climate change. **► PAGE 18**

LIFE & STYLE



What did Narcissus say to Instagram? Selfie time! **► PAGE 19**

Tentative deal in Fund class action

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

In dramatic fashion, the parties in the Betty Johnson's class action against the NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government reached a tentative settlement deal late afternoon yesterday on their third and last day of settlement negotiations.

» **\$52M for employees who withdrew from Fund**
» **Retirees to get 75 percent of benefits**

Like a cliché from a suspense movie, the bad news came first, with one of Johnson's lawyers, Margery Bronster, announcing, "We have no deal!"

A gloomy silence fell inside the U.S. District Court courtroom following her statement.

As Bronster expressed her frustration and explained, among other things, why a huge cut in retirement benefits is simply unacceptable, she received a text

message from her co-counsel, Robert M. Hatch, who was at the time still on the negotiating table before Hawaii bankruptcy chief judge Robert Faris. The text came in at 5:05pm.

After reading the text message, Bronster, who was now smiling, said, "We may have a breakthrough!"

Evidently happy with the development, U.S. District Court for the NMI

See FUND on Page 4



TRAFFIC LIGHT UPGRADE

Radiocom employees work on a portion of a newly started \$1.225-million Saipan traffic signal upgrade project, by a road intersection in Susupe, yesterday afternoon, months after it was delayed because of procurement protest. The Department of Public Works project involves upgrading Saipan's 19 traffic light systems and improvement to surrounding areas.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Reconfiguration, merger for 8 public schools

» **GTC-Tanapag consolidation eyed this new school year**
» **Transformations for six other schools proposed for SY 2014-2016**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Public School System bared yesterday its plan to merge not only the Gregorio T. Camacho and Tanapag elementary schools but also six other public schools on Saipan.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., told the Board of Education yesterday

See SCHOOLS on Page 4

Parents, board members score 'rush' proposal

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Parents of Tanapag Elementary School students, headed by Parents Teachers Association president Shawnalei Ogumoro, appeared yesterday before the Board of Education to express concerns about the plan to merge the

Tanapag and GTC elementary schools.

Speaking during the meeting's public comment period, Ogumoro she is saddened by the "sheer lack of respect" by PSS for the parents and the community of Tanapag, who were only made aware of the planned merger two weeks after the school closed down for

See PARENTS on Page 4

Rising seas washing away Pacific leader's home. PAGE 2
'Saipan Jack' is Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year. PAGE 6



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Local

Rising seas washing away Pacific leader's home island

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (AFP)—As the US urges world leaders to ramp up action on climate change, the leader of one small island chain in the North Pacific Ocean has already got the message—watching helplessly as rising seas slowly erode his birthplace.

The idyllic beaches on the island of Buoj where Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak fished as a boy are already submerged, and the ever-encroaching ocean now threatens to wash away roads, schools and airstrips.

"The end of the island gets shorter every year. Some places we used to stand on the beach to fish are now in the water," Mr Loeak, 60, told AFP.

Buoj is one of 52 islands in Ailinglaplap, an atoll that a Marshall Islands survey found was one of its most vulnerable to climate change.

"I have great attraction to Ailinglaplap," Mr Loeak said in the capital, Majuro. "I can live on other islands, but I was born and raised there. I always think about going back there to live."

The Marshalls, an island nation of some 70,000 people about halfway between Australia and Hawaii, will have a rare moment in the international spotlight in September, when it hosts the annual Pacific Islands Forum.

Loeak said he wanted to use the opportunity to send a strong message to the world, particu-

larly larger polluting nations, about the need for action to slow down climate change.

"We will not stop telling people that climate change is a real issue for humanity," he said. "We will be the first to feel it, but it will come to them and they should realise it."

The warning was echoed by Barack Obama in a landmark speech, in which the US president dismissed climate change deniers and outlined steps aimed at making Washington a global leader in greenhouse gas reduction.

"We don't have time for a meeting of the Flat Earth Society," Mr Obama said.

"Sticking your head in the sand might make you feel safer, but it is not going to protect you

from the coming storm."

The impact of global warming is starkly evident in Ailinglaplap, with the Marshall Islands' senior climate change advisor Steve Why saying the majority of the atoll's shorelines were eroding.

"Infrastructure at risk of eroding includes three airstrips, roads, causeways and schools," he said.

Why and his survey team documented coastal erosion as an increasingly serious problem affecting many of the atoll's islands and noted the threat of rising sea levels to the entire country.

"Strong northeast trade winds since October 2012 have elevated sea levels three-to-six inches (7.6-15.2 centimetres), noticeably accelerating erosion on Ailinglaplap," he said.

About 1,700 people are scattered on the atoll's islands, which are barely a metre (three-feet) above sea level, even at their highest points.

A causeway linking some of the islands is disappearing, while salt water makes previously productive agricultural land useless.

Why said discussions with the community showed people wanted the infrastructure problems fixed, but they were reluctant to confront the worst-case scenario.

"Most conversations stalled as we envisaged what the future held - over a three foot rise in average sea level during this century, and more beyond that," he said.

"(It's) not difficult to imagine what will happen over the coming decades while stand-

ing, talking, sleeping and raising one's family on land that is just a couple of feet in elevation above the high tide mark - a line that is now always slowly moving inland - when there isn't anywhere else that's easy to retreat to."

Mr Loeak said the fate of the low-lying nation raised questions about the basic human rights of those affected by global warming, warning that if the islands were ultimately engulfed by the ocean, "we become refugees".

Mr Loeak said that while he was happy to see world leaders such as Obama talking about climate change, it had not changed the fact that sea levels were continuing to rise in the Pacific.

And he said in the face of rising waters, his own fate was tied to that of the island.

"I will remain here until I die," he said. "If the water comes, it comes." (AFP)

NMC summer enrollment number drops

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Enrollment numbers for summer classes at the Northern Marianas College shows a significant drop compared to the same period last year, based on the data obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

College records show that the headcount number for summer 2013 is at 258, an 11-percent decline to the 291 posted in summer 2012.

Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, could not immediately pinpoint yesterday the factors behind the significant decline, citing the absence of a data analysis that will help explain the difference between summer 2012 and summer 2013 enrollments.

The 2013 summer session is from May 28 through July 27.

Pangelinan disclosed that this summer's 258 enrollees include 60 high school students (sophomore, juniors, and seniors) who are participating in the College Access Challenge Grant Summer Academy, which will begin on July 1.

"We include courses enrolled in by Summer Academy students as contributing to the total number of students enrolled in our summer session," he said.

In summer 2012, NMC had a total of 304 FTEs (or full-time equivalent) students. The FTEs were down to only 152 this summer—a 50 percent decline from last year's.

According to Pangelinan, full-time equivalency, or FTE, is calculated by taking the total number of course credits all students are registered for and

dividing that figure by six credits, which is the minimum credit enrollment for a student to be considered "full-time" for the summer session.

NMC is offering 32 course sections this summer session. At least two course sections were scheduled for each remedial math course and five courses were scheduled for the evening hours.

Summer 2012 had a total of 44 course sections and cancelled six course sections.

Pangelinan said the cancellation of course sections is normally due to low enrollments for the course.

Although financial assistance is limited during summer classes, the college is offering students some employment opportunities for those who are qualified.

Former judge Bellas files counterclaims vs Fund

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

As a judge pro tempore, Timothy H. Bellas is presiding over the NMI Retirement's lawsuit against the CNMI government in Superior Court. On Tuesday, Bellas filed in the same court his counterclaims against the Fund that is suing him for overpayment.

Bellas filed the counterclaims against the Fund and its administrator, Lillian Pangelinan, for breach of fiduciary duty, negligent misrepresentation, rescission, breach of contract, and violation of the Truth in Lending Act.

The former Superior Court associate judge is demanding unspecified damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

In the alternative, Bellas wants the court to allow him to rescind an agreement with the Fund in its entirety and return the entire amount paid to him

to the Fund and the parties restored to the position they were on in September 2009.

The Fund, through counsel Braddock J. Huesman, sued Bellas last month for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and conversion for allegedly refusing to return \$12,148.67 in overpayment that was mistakenly paid him.

The Fund wants Bellas to return the amount, plus interest, attorney's fees, and court costs.

In his counterclaim, Bellas said he was an employee and judicial officer of the government from 1982 to 1986 and from 1995 to 2001 and was a Class I member of the Fund.

He said he sought in 1996 to buy back the years of his prior government service, from the period of 1982 to 1986.

To accomplish the buy back, he said he was advised that, in addition to regular Fund employee contributions, additional amounts would be deducted

from his biweekly paychecks in order to recover the prior year contributions to the Fund.

Bellas said neither the Fund nor its administrator ever provided any complete disclosure of the amounts that he would be required to pay back the Fund in compliance with the Truth in Lending Act.

From October 1995 until October 2001, Bellas made bi-weekly payments as his Class I contributions into the Fund. In addition, Bellas said, the Fund received biweekly payments for the buy back in the amount of \$350.71 for the period of roughly 1996 to 2001.

He said the failure to advise him that the refund would not include any payments that the Fund attributed as interest was a material misrepresentation of fact by omission.

He said he detrimentally relied on such misrepresentation in reaching the decision to withdraw his contributions from the Fund.



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- Cannot walk upstairs
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Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.



IF LARGE CUSTOMERS USE CUC POWER FULL-TIME:

'Power rates would go down, \$6M in added revenue'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

If all large customers—such as hotels and big stores—use the power provided by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. full

time, this will not only result in increased income for the utilities agency but will also lower power rates for everyone.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren stressed this with *Saipan Tribune*, adding

that these companies' previous fears about CUC being unreliable as a source of power no longer holds true.

Many big establishments on island use their own generators for their business operations.

They are all connected to CUC's power grid but use this power only sporadically, mostly when their generators break down.

"There are some large consumers of power who use CUC power only when their genera-

tors are offline. Currently, there is no extra charge for maintaining CUC capacity and connections for these types of customers," Warren said.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC does not have data on how many large companies rely on CUC full time or how often self-generating companies use CUC power but Warren projects additional sales of 36 million to 51 million kWh per month if all these large establishments use CUC power full time.

"If all of the large customers currently self-generating were connected full-time to the CUC system... this would add \$4 million to \$6 million to revenues," he added.

Additionally, once this happens, CUC will be able to significantly lower its power rates, he said. "This addition to revenues would potentially lower the commercial base rates by \$0.0137 to \$0.0187 per kWh."

The corporation currently charges its power customers \$0.31878 per kWh for the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC. This is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel.

CUC is expected to file a power rate petition in September due to an increase in world fuel prices.

Warren pointed out that CUC charges its big customers when they use CUC power. What CUC does not charge them is the "convenience" of having CUC power when they need it.

"Even when they are not using CUC power, we are required to maintain generator capacity sufficient to serve them and power distribution lines to connect them to our grid," according to Warren.

He explained that CUC has no authority to require anyone to connect to the system. But since power production has progressed, he is encouraging these large businesses to use CUC power full time.

"We hope, now that CUC has a record of reliable delivery and competitive costs, that more of these customers will decide to use CUC for the majority of their power needs," added Warren.

In a progress report submitted by CUC in the third quarter of the fiscal year, the agency said that it produces 64 megawatts of energy for Saipan. The current peak demand is 30MW.

The progress in power generation was a result of actions taken by CUC, including replacement, repair, and overhaul of its power plants engines, among others.

Based on CUC records early this year, the agency has approximately over 14,000 active power customers. These are customers who receive bill for their services during the month.

Inos calls for another leadership forum with Legislature

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos called yesterday for another leadership forum with members of the Legislature on Tuesday, and some lawmakers have so far come up with issues they want to raise with the governor—from the pension obligation bond authorization bill to updates on the NMI Retirement Fund settlement and the idle Mariana House in Washington, D.C.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said he would raise the issue of the POB authorization bill that is now with the governor for action, as well as the governor's view on a Senate-adopted resolution urging the administration to consider reinstating JG Sablan's permit to mine pozzolan on Pagan.

"...The government lawsuit against JG Sablan the past seven years has not helped us at all, has not helped the Retirement Fund or the Public School System. We can work together on this matter," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Senate president is also

keen to hear from the governor the status of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s standing with the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The governor and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider's leadership forum with lawmakers will be at 1pm on July 2 in the administration's main conference room on Capital Hill.

In his letter to the presiding officers of the Legislature, the governor said the leadership forum is meant "to unify our efforts."

"We will be discussing current issues and seek a follow up on matters discussed in our previous meeting. A draft agenda will be provided to your offices shortly. Your attendance and participation at this forum is very much appreciated," the governor said in his one-page letter yesterday to Torres and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan).

House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) said he will attend and is inviting other members of the minority bloc to participate as well.

Camacho said they will discuss

revenue-generating initiatives, the Retirement Fund, the former La Fiesta Mall's revitalization, and tourism enhancement efforts.

Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), for his part, said he would bring up the plans for the government's Mariana House in Washington, D.C.

Yumul said the administration may consider renting the property to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), for his office and residence. Sablan is currently renting a studio-type apartment in the nation's capital.

"Kilili may use a part of his operational funds for the Mariana House. Instead of us selling the property now when the market is down, why not have it leased or rented out, and that money could go into maintaining and improving the property. Later on, we could sell it for a higher price," Yumul said.

The governor said last week that the Mariana House was recently appraised at \$800,000 to \$1 million.

TO LOWER PSS TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO

Panel: No to salary raises, yes to hiring more teachers

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee members spent several hours yesterday deliberating on the Public School System's fiscal year 2014 budget, and panel chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) said they would rather see PSS hire more teachers to lower teacher-student ratio than set aside some \$800,000 for salary increases in anticipation of teachers meeting certification requirements.

Yesterday marked the third day of the Ways and Means Committee's closed-door deliberation on the governor's proposed \$123.4 million budget for fiscal year 2014.

The goal is to wrap up deliberations this week and pre-file a budget bill by next week.

Ways and Means Committee members took turns asking PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio about PSS' budget.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos proposed a \$33 million budget for PSS in fiscal year 2014, a \$3-million increase from the 2013 budget of \$30 million.

PSS asked the Legislature for \$40 million. As of yesterday,

the Ways and Means Committee has not made any commitment that PSS will get more than the \$33 million the governor proposed.

However, Sablan said the committee wants to get concrete data from PSS as to the number of additional teachers it needs to lower the teacher-student ratio.

"We heard there are salary increases in anticipation of teachers meeting higher certification levels. That's about \$800,000 in total. But the Ways and Means Committee is taking a hard look and would rather see funding go toward hiring more teachers rather than set aside for salary increases when there is no guarantee they will get certification next year," Sablan said.

While the committee has identified some \$200,000 so far that could be redistributed among agencies, there is no final decision yet on which agencies will get a portion of those. The figures are all preliminary.

A fiscal year 2014 budget bill should be passed and signed into law before Oct. 1 or the government would have to shut down.

Fiscal year 2014 is from Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2014.

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2010	Mazda	Mazda3	35,413	\$12,000 <i>Financing Available</i>
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FUND

From Page 1

designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, who presided over the status conference from Guam via video teleconference, called for a 15-minute recess in order for Bronster to check “whether this is real.”

Several lawyers and a few retirees who were in the gallery were smiling too.

When hearing resumed at 5:30pm, a beaming Bronster disclosed that they now have a tentative agreement that is

“good news” for the lawsuit’s class members.

Bronster said a proposed class settlement agreement will be submitted for Tydingco-Gatewood’s approval.

Under the proposal, \$52 million will be set aside for payment to current government employees who have elected to withdraw from the Fund.

Public Law 17-82 allows Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

“If the settlement does not go through, we will contest Public

Law 17-82,” Bronster told reporters after the hearing.

Of \$52 million, Bronster said that \$10 million will be paid out after the federal court’s preliminary approval of the settlement agreement. The remainder, she said, will be paid soon after the final approval of the deal.

For retirees, Bronster said the tentative agreement will require paying them 75 percent of benefits.

Bronster said the government will be required to give additional funds to the Fund every year in order to meet the

75 percent obligation.

If the government doesn’t come through with its promised amount, a default judgment will be rendered against the government amounting to \$779 million, she said.

Bronster said there’s a lot of documentation that needs to be done before Faris.

“We’re working on the details. We think that this is a cut that we did not want to take, but we believe that having the assurances that we will be able to collect the money from the government is really important,” she said.

As to who will handle the settlement fund, Bronster said it will be under the auspices of the federal court so that the government will not be able to take control of that money, will not be able to transfer it into the general fund, and it will be available for retirees.

A trustee or settlement trustee will be appointed to oversee the settlement fund.

What is important, Bronster said, is that the retirees’ constitutional rights are protected by this agreement.

Bronster noted that it was

attorney Bruce Jorgensen who started Johnson’s legal battle four years ago.

She said they will submit to the court their attorneys’ fees for approval.

Tydingco-Gatewood set the preliminary approval of the deal for Aug. 5, 2013.

Tydingco-Gatewood thanked Faris, Johnson, Gov. Eloy Inos, and the lawyers involved in the case.

“I’m really proud that you all worked hard,” said the judge, adding that proposed orders in this case will be her top priorities.

PARENTS

From Page 1

the summer.

“What really hurts is the process PSS used to communicate such a major shift for Tanapag by telling us only during the last two weeks of school [about] this merger and then having our children spend their last day of school at GTC touring the campus,” she said.

She pointed out that parents and guardians were not even given permission slips for their consent whether or not to allow their children from attending the field trip to GTC.

Ogumoro said the parents’ voices were silenced and that parents were pushed to a corner and forced to accept a plan that was never shared with stakeholders. She said she did not see any document outlining the proposal.

“We, the community of TES parents, feel ultimately that we have been discriminated against. If PSS honestly thought this merging plan is such a great idea, how come they waited until the last minute to tell us? Or was this type of backlash anticipated, hence

their method of information delivery?” she asked.

According to Ogumoro, TES—unlike GTC—has had no counselor, no funding for renovations, no upgrades in technology, and no FTE for a bilingual teacher—all illustrating PSS’ lack of respect for the village’s children.

According to a mother of two Tanapag students, Claire Sablan, Tanapag was given the impression that the decision has already been made for the consolidation of the two schools.

“The last time the COE and the GTC principal [Charlotte Camacho] was at Tanapag, they informed us that the decision was already made and they were only approaching us to help them with the transition from moving our children to GTC. I am glad to hear today [from the board] that the merger is not set in stone and that the board is willing to hear our concerns,” Sablan said. “For the COE to come to our village and tell straight to our face it’s a done deal, I can’t help but ask, ‘Is this the kind of message we teach our children?’”

Another parent, Alice Igitol,

also spoke to the board, disclosing the opposition of many parents to the merger plan.

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero, who is also opposed to the merger, invited the board to meet with the Tanapag stakeholders on the issue. He submitted a three-page document to the board detailing the many questions and concerns raised by Tanapag parents who attended last week’s meeting.

“Our parents want to hear straight from this board about this merger issue and we’re requesting an audience from the board. They’re seeking answers to many questions,” Leon Guerrero told the board.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero assured that the board will weigh the pros and cons of the proposal and that proper consultation with stakeholders will be sought prior to making a decision.

Yesterday’s meeting agenda did not contain the merger proposal, although the board had already received the plan from PSS management. Guerrero initially referred the proposal to the committees but, at the insistence of some board members, the education commissioner was asked to make

an oral presentation.

‘Inappropriate, troublesome’

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., said yesterday that PSS is ready to respond to each and every concern raised by stakeholders.

She told the board that besides a series of meetings with both GTC and Tanapag communities, they also did a survey among students.

In fact, she said, an open house/orientation is scheduled for July 1 and 2 at the Tanapag campus, including the opening of registration. Professional developments, she said, are also slated for August for the seamless transition to the new school year.

Sablan also announced the reassignment of the following administrators: Charlotte Camacho for GTC; Ignacia Demapan for KagES; Ruth Calvo for the Tanapag Middle School; and Vince Dela Cruz for the Chacha Oceanview Middle School. These four schools are included in Phase 1 of the reconfiguration plans.

According to Sablan, some repairs will also be done at the Tanapag campus this sum-

mer to increase the existing 14 bathrooms to 24.

“We are prepared to move forward with this plan, knowing the benefits are greater,” reported Sablan.

Board member Marylou Ada was surprised to learn about these preparations, despite the board not having approved the reconfiguration plan yet.

“Commissioner, it seems that you already set a motion to do this in September. Is that right? How long have you been in the planning stage or how long was this feasibility study on the drawing board before it was brought to the board’s attention?” she asked Sablan.

Sablan replied: “In June.”

“So you only have three months’ [preparation] to merge the two schools. This is the first time this issue has been brought to the board...and, I think, to rush us and make a decision before September is inappropriate! I am just shocked that this is coming before the board,” added Ada.

Board member Tanya King said that giving the perception that the issue is a done deal is troublesome.

“It just gives the appearance

and perception that this is a done deal...and that I find is troublesome,” said King.

Board member Lucy Blanco-Maratita asked that all documents relating to the proposal be submitted to the board for through review of the committees. She also requested that upon recommendation from the committees, all materials used in the report be made available to the full board.

When asked about the possibility of having the merger plan approved before the opening of new school year in two months, board chair Guerrero said he is clueless.

“I can’t speak for the rest of the board members,” he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he does not believe the issue is a done-deal because it has to go through the full board.

“In this day of lack of funds and economic hardship, we also need to find ways on how we can help our students. I understand where the commissioner, parents, and the board members are coming from... but we need to balance things out,” added Guerrero, who asked for a more comprehensive analysis of the merger proposal.

SCHOOLS

From Page 1

that the merger of the GTC and Tanapag elementary schools will be the initial phase and she recommends that this be done by school year 2013-2014, which starts in three months.

Under this proposal, GTC will house all kindergarten to fifth grade for the two schools while the Tanapag campus will become a new middle school for sixth to eighth graders.

Sablan is convinced that doing this will not only reduce overcrowding in two junior high schools but will give students in these areas equal educational opportunities.

She pointed out that junior high school students in these communities currently travel 12 miles each day to their campuses in Hopwood and Chacha Oceanview. The creation of a new Tanapag Middle School will lessen these students’ travel time and give them greater opportunities for

interscholastic activities, programs, and competitions.

“We have a high school and elementary school approximately in every community, so why don’t we do that in middle school? Let’s give them that equal share of the education that is needed for them to be equipped and successful in their puberty age,” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The GTC-Tanapag merger is also expected to result in the much-awaited expansion of the kindergarten program as more classrooms are identified to accommodate the increasing number of kindergarten students.

“The key characteristic of this plan is that our middle schools will have smaller student-teacher ratio, interdisciplinary team-teaching, purposeful community within the context of where children live, thereby encouraging more family engagement and community involvement,” said Sablan.

She believes “it’s the right time” for PSS and the BOE to consider transforming some elementary school campuses

into middle schools to address the needs of students between the ages of 11 and 13.

Sablan said the decline in student enrollment at GTC and Tanapag indicates that now is the right time to consolidate and transform Tanapag Elementary into a middle school.

At present, GTC has 211 students while Tanapag Elementary has 180. These two has students from kindergarten to 6th grade.

The GTC-Tanapag merger is the first phase of a bigger reconfiguration plan.

Once GTC and Tanapag are merged, GTC is projected to have 338 students from kindergarten to fifth grade, 14 classroom teachers, one principal, one counselor, and one special education teacher. Student ratio is expected at 20:1 in kindergarten to third grade and 25:1 in Grades 4-5.

The proposed Tanapag Middle School for sixth to eighth graders will have 13 teachers, one principal, one counselor, and one special education teacher, Sablan said. Students-to-teacher ratio is

projected at 21:1.

Phase 1 also includes the proposed reconfiguration of Kagman Elementary School and Chacha Oceanview Junior High. Sablan wants Kagman elementary for kindergarten to fifth grade students while Chacha will house sixth to eighth graders. Chacha will be renamed the Chacha Oceanview Middle School, effective upon the opening of the new school year in September.

If this happens, KagES is expected to have 430 students and 19 classroom teachers while Chacha will have 274 students and 11 classroom teachers.

Phase 2

Sablan also disclosed yesterday plans to consolidate students of San Vicente and Dandan elementary schools and the creation of another middle school. SVES will become home to students from kindergarten to fifth grade while the Dandan school will become the Dandan Middle School for sixth to eighth graders. This plan is recommended for

enforcement in school year 2014-2015.

Under this plan, SVES will be home to 738 students and 33 teachers, for a students-to-teacher ratio of 20:1 for lower graders and 25:1 for upper graders.

For the Dandan Middle School, student enrollment is projected at 487, with 19 classroom teachers and a student-teacher ratio of 25:1.

Sablan also plans to make Koblerville Elementary School the home for kindergarten through fifth graders while converting the San Antonio Elementary School into the San Antonio Middle School.

Sablan said that Koblerville will have 27 teachers for some 598 kindergarten to fifth grade students, while the San Antonio Middle School is projected to have 343 students and 14 teachers.

Phase 3

Sablan also wants to convert the proposed Koblerville Junior High School into the Koblerville High School once the proj-

ect is completed. The aim is to reduce enrollment at Marianas High School, which has over 1,400 students each school year.

Target

According to Sablan, all proposed reconfigurations are related to the system’s objective to reduce the overcrowding at Hopwood Junior High School.

“This proposed transformation of some elementary schools into middle schools will eventually reduce the enrollment of Hopwood by 50 percent at the end of 2015,” she said.

PSS records show that Hopwood enrollment increased by 9 percent from 2008 to 2011. In school year 2012, student population increased by 2 percent. This school year, Hopwood had 1,192 students, making it the largest junior high within the Commonwealth.

According to Sablan, these proposed mergers, reallocation of school resources, and transformations will have a positive impact on the school district.

Bill seeks to create graduated penalties for possession of pot

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee has recommended passage of a bill that would treat the possession of less than a pound of marijuana as a non-criminal infraction, making it subject of only up to \$100 fine, with no formal arrest and no imprisonment.

"As a payable offense and not a criminal violation, it shall be adjudicated like a traffic citation...wherein violations shall not be subject to mandatory formal arrest or detention," the JGO says in its newly pre-filed report on the bill.

The JGO Committee's rec-

ommended version of the bill states that possession of 1 ounce or less of marijuana will be subject only to a \$50 fine and is a non-criminal infraction. There will be no arrest or jail time.

Possession of more than 1 ounce but not more than 1 lb of marijuana would be subject to a \$100 fine only and is again a non-criminal infraction. There is no arrest and imprisonment.

Anything beyond 1 lb will be considered a criminal offense and will be subject to arrests and jail time.

The JGO Committee, chaired by Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), recommended passage of House Bill 18-42 in the form of House Draft 1.

If the full House adopts the

JGO Committee report, then the bill could be voted on during the next session.

The JGO Committee made amendments to the original bill. For example, possession of more than 1 lb. of marijuana but less than 1.5 lbs. may be sentenced to a jail term of not more than one month, a fine of up to \$250, or both, under HD1.

In the original bill, authored by Leon Guerrero himself and co-sponsored by five others, the fine is \$500, up to three months jail time or both for possession of marijuana more than 1 lb. but less than 2.2 lbs.

The JGO Committee's version of the bill also says that any person possessing more than 1.5 lbs but less than 2.2 lbs may be sentenced to a jail term of not

more than three months, a fine of not more than \$500, or both.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero offered his support for the bill, saying the increase in fines for illegal possession of marijuana in the CNMI is something that he had "long been an advocate of."

"While I do not support the decriminalization of the illegal possession of all forms of controlled substances, the current proposed measure of making possession of marijuana a citable offense as opposed to one that requires an arrest makes logical sense in today's law enforcement environment as critical [DPS] resources can be best utilized in the arrest and detention of criminals who commit the more serious of-

fenses," the DPS commissioner said in a letter to the House JGO Committee.

If the bill becomes law, Deleon Guerrero said this will place additional burden on DPS in terms of enforcement.

He asks that at least 50 percent of all fines collected as a result of the enforcement and prosecution be given to DPS "to augment its law enforcement operating expenses."

Portions of fees, fines, and penalties collected as a result of this bill, once signed into law, will go toward DPS and the Judiciary.

Leon Guerrero said the current range of fines and penalties for marijuana possession is too broad, so HB 18-42 will provide clearer penalties and

remove the overly broad discretion now in place.

He said marijuana possession of less than 1 ounce is currently punishable by \$50. But still, he said, this is not clearly a payable offense "despite the fact that it should be."

"Small amounts of marijuana and the small fine that results from a violation of 6 CMC section 2142(c) are not worth the court's valuable time and scarce resources. This legislation does not change the law, it merely clarifies that the possession of less than 1 ounce of marijuana for personal use is a non-criminal infraction, akin to a traffic payable offense requiring no formal arrest and clearly no detention," Leon Guerrero said in his bill.

Man gets probation sentence for possession of 2 fruit bats

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a six-month probation sentence on goat farmer Pedro B. Mendiola, who was found guilty of possessing two federally protected Mariana fruit bats or *fanihi* on Tinian.

"Prison sentences, as a general rule, should be reserved for those serious and violent offenders. The court does not find defendant, under the circumstances present in this case, to be one of those offenders," said Wiseman in a written order yesterday.

Although he agrees with the government that a strong sentence is required to emphasize the seriousness of the crime to the community, Wiseman said the message can still be sent effectively via a non-prison sentence.

The judge sentenced the 51-year-old Mendiola to three months in prison on each count, all suspended.

Mendiola was ordered to perform 200 hours of community service by assisting the Department of Agriculture with the care and maintenance of any goats, cows, pigs, chickens, or any other animals they may have under their jurisdiction.

Mendiola was also required to give a presentation to each of the high school and elementary school on Tinian on the need to preserve and maintain the existence of fruit bats and other endangered species.

He was also ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine, \$25 court assessment fee, and probation fee.

Wiseman found Mendiola guilty of two counts of possession of endangered and threatened species.

In his sentencing order, Wiseman said that Mendiola,

a goat farmer, traded a goat for two fruit bats. He kept the bats as pets and fed them and cared for them.

"He did not hunt, capture or harm them, but rather took care of them," Wiseman noted.

He also noted that Mendiola has shown remorse and has accepted responsibility for not complying with the law by obtaining a permit.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister had recommended the maximum sentence of one year in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

McAllister said the trial is believed to be the first fruit bat trial in CNMI Superior Court history and only the second conviction of its kind.

"A strong sentence is required to emphasize the seriousness of this crime to the community. CNMI and Division of Fish and Wildlife wish to protect the unique *fanihi* and other indigenous species so they may be appreciated by future generations and tourists," the prosecutor said.

Assistant public defender Benjamin K. Petersburg, counsel for Mendiola, recommended a sentence of one year probation, on the condition that Mendiola will make a presentation in Tinian schools about the importance of preserving endangered species and the law regarding possession of endangered species.

Petersburg said the facts of the case do not justify a harsh penalty.

"This is not a case in which the defendant hunted or killed fruit bats. This is not a case where the defendant used shotguns to kill dozens of roosting fruit bats as took place [on] Rota," Petersburg said.

Simply put, this is a case in which Mendiola kept two fruit bats as pets, he added.

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'Saipan Jack' is Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year

The Rotary Club of Saipan on Saturday bestowed on Dr. Jack Hardy its prestigious Citizen of the Year award for his many contributions as a surgeon, businessman, and tireless volunteer in the CNMI.

Hardy received the award during the club's induction ceremony last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

With dozens of local Rotary members and guests standing up and applauding his selection, Hardy went up to the podium and, with his voice cracking, thanked the civic organization for the recognition.

"I don't cry," he prefaced his statement, then said he became one of the islands' most recognized volunteer for campaigns

against cancer because of his mother who died at a young age "due to a preventable disease... cervical cancer."

He went on to say that because of the various cancer awareness programs in the CNMI, especially drives against HPV, or the human papilloma virus, the islands' have become internationally recognized with

a *New York Times* article stating that the impact of the HPV vaccine is already being felt.

Hardy also congratulated Gov. Eloy S. Inos and his administration for signing into law the creation of a farmers' market at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Before his impromptu speech, Rotary Club of Saipan president Laila Y. Boyer a read

a lengthy tribute to the man that has become simply known as "Saipan Jack."

She said that Hardy came to Saipan over 20 years ago and worked as a surgeon at the Commonwealth Health Center.

After retiring, Hardy took his hobby of photography or what he calls "personal stress management" and made it his full-time career with Saipan Images, Ltd., according to Boyer.

Even before becoming a businessman, Hardy already was tireless a volunteer with the American Relay for Life and, when it evolved to the Commonwealth Cancer Association, became one of the

founding members and driving forces of the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Serving as a senior adviser of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Hardy became the lead advocate of successful campaigns for the new HPV vaccine for cervical cancer.

Aside from CCA, Hardy also served as president of the Saipan Walking Association, was an active volunteer for PAWS, a strong business partner in the Tournament of Champions, and volunteers as photographer in countless community events.

Hardy is expected to leave his home of 20 years for Ecuador next month. (*Saipan Tribune*)



Jack Hardy, second from left, holds up the Rotary Club of Saipan Citizen of the Year award he received last Saturday during the club's induction ceremony at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Also in photo are, from left, past Rotary Club of Saipan president Pete Shilling, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Tax rebates, refunds now being processed

The processing of tax rebates and refunds has started, which is earlier than the originally anticipated schedule of mid-July. The next phase would be releasing the checks.

Press secretary Angel Demapan clarified yesterday that no checks have been released yet, as the Department of Finance is still processing tax rebates and refunds at this time.

"Checks cannot be released until processing has been completed," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

In March, during the opening of the tax filing season, Finance said that its Division of Revenue and Taxation will begin data

entry processing in March as taxpayers file their returns "and by mid-July will begin the processing of refund/rebate checks, as well as Additional Child Tax Credit refund checks."

At the time, Finance anticipated the initial distribution date for the first batch of refunds to be in early August. Finance later said the distribution could happen earlier than August.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer, while rebate is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)



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Fishermen's Co-op opens in San Jose

Want fresh and quality fish on the dinner table? Look no farther than the recently opened Fishermen's Co-op across the Feng Hua Store in San Jose.

Officially known as the Northern Marianas Fishermen's Marketing Association,

the Fishermen's Co-op is a co-operative among more than 20 local fishermen who drop off their catch daily at the establishment, which the latter then sells to consumers.

Joanne Camacho, the store's administrative assistant, said

they have had better-than-expected sales since they opened last May 19, with customers appreciating the co-op's clean and air-conditioned establishment.

What surprises their customers the most is that prices at the co-op are competitive,

if not downright cheaper, than the prices of roadside fish stalls around the island, she said.

Felix Sasamoto, one of the islands' premier spearfishermen and is involved in the co-op, said that what makes them stand out is the quality and freshness of the seafood they sell.

Proof of this is the co-op's well-sanitized butchering room, where staff Lino Aichi plies his craft.

Sasamoto said the co-op primarily sells deep bottom and reef fish like onaga, gindai, ehu, paka-paka, parrot fish, and hangon.

As a service to customers, Sasamoto said the co-op can fillet and clean the fish they buy on the spot free of charge. They can also vacuum-pack the fish for customers who are planning to send it to off-island relatives pinning for local seafood.

Aside from whole and filleted fish, customers can also choose from a wide array of fish steaks readily displayed at the co-op's counter, said Richard Seman Jr.

They also sell delectable snack-size sashimi and poki, which Camacho said have become absolute favorites since they opened last month. The co-op also sells poki or sashimi by the tray but customers must call

in advance to reserve.

Only more than month in business, the Fishermen's Co-op is already looking at putting several tables and chairs inside the store so customers can enjoy their sashimi and poki instantly.

Sasamoto also said there are plans to sell spearfishing gear inside the establishment, which will blend in nicely with the fisherman theme of the Fishermen's Co-op.

The Fishermen's Co-op is open seven days a week from 10am to 7pm. To order or for more information, call 234-2667 or email nmfma.president@gmail.com. *(Saipan Tribune)*



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

From left, Fisherman's Co-op's Felix Sasamoto, Richard Seman Jr., and Joanne Camacho pose at the back of one of their fish displays inside the recently opened store in San Jose.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lino Aichi is hard at work at the co-op's well-sanitized butchering room.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Onaga steaks with their prices already indicated.

Filipino organization on Tinian revived

A long-dormant Filipino organization on Tinian was recently revived and its incoming president has vowed to help his countrymen on the island as well as serve the local community.

Rodney S. Cabarles, a nurse supervisor at the Tinian Health Clinic, said his first and short-term goal as president of the revived United Filipinos Association in Tinian, or UniFil, is to promote friendship and unity

not only among Filipinos on Tinian but throughout the community.

He also looks forward to helping Filipinos on Tinian who have fallen on hard times because of the slowdown in the local economy, which has left many of them jobless.

Cabarles said the island's economy has become so bad that many Filipinos have opted to go home to the Philippines rather than face an uncertain future on Tinian.

It is also his hope that UniFil would become a conduit for helping Filipinos who need the services of the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam.

UniFil will induct its officers this Sunday, June 30, at the Kammer Beach fiesta grounds in San Jose.

Aside from Cabarles, others who will also be sworn in for two-year terms are vice president Mary Susan M. Cruz, secretary Lizabeth B. Hofschneider, treasurer Teresita O. Sanchez, auditor Vicente C. Requiron Jr., business manager Vina M. Hofschneider, and public relations officers Vivian V. Hofschneider and Sydney Clifford S. Biton.

The organization's board of directors is also headed by Cabarles, who will serve as chairman, with members Joselito C. Lenteja, Benedicta L. Borja, Manuel D. Sencio, Rodelio D. Valiente, Renato V. Esteban, and Eddie Cannaoay.

Its board of advisers, meanwhile, is made up of Flaviano D. Guerrero, Corazon T. Cepeda, and Apollo M. Madriaga, who is the current PIO of the United Filipino Organization on Saipan and its many-time president.

Cabarles said the inducting officer on Sunday will be CNMI Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz was also asked to give inspirational remarks and invitations were also sent out to Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider as well as lawmakers from Tinian

and members of the Tinian Municipal Council.

Cabarles said that honorary Philippine consul to the CNMI Eli Arago will be present during the induction ceremony and will convey Philippine Consul General to Guam Bayani Mangibin's message to the officers and members of UniFil.

Joining Arago is UFO president Annamae Adaza, who will also give a short message.

Sunday's slate of activities will start with a Mass at 8am at the San Jose Parish. From there they will proceed to the Kammer Beach grounds for the induction ceremony at 10am.

The Tinian High School JROTC will perform color guard duties. Four different faith-based members will perform the invocation.

The induction program includes song and dance numbers from volunteers and parlor games for children and adults. The occasion will also serve as a post-Philippine Independence Day celebration and a family fun day for the Filipino community on Tinian.

Cabarles also reminded UniFil members that the induction ceremony is a potluck gathering. He encourages everyone to bring food to share with the community. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Charges dismissed vs woman accused of stabbing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has dismissed the charges against a woman who was arrested for allegedly stabbing her boyfriend with two knives.

At a preliminary hearing on Tuesday afternoon, Camacho found no probable cause to charge Melissa Acosta with assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The judge ordered the release of the 30-year-old Acosta.

Camacho found the testimony of police detective

Francisco Romeo Iginoef inconsistent.

Camacho did not buy the story that the boyfriend ran away from the house because he was being stabbed. Rather, the judge believed that the alleged victim was afraid, considering that he is on probation.

The judge also noted that Acosta has a wound in her palm that, according to her counsel, Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, was a defensive wound.

Camacho directed the Office of the Attorney General and the police to go back and investigate further.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll appeared for the government at the hearing.

Acosta was arrested last week for allegedly stabbing her boyfriend repeatedly with two stainless knives during an argument at their house in Susupe.

Police said that Acosta ran away after the stabbing and called 911, while the boyfriend also ran toward a poker room at Townhouse Shopping Center in Chalan Kanoa where he called his family to pick him up.

Police said the boyfriend sustained seven stab wounds in the shoulders and lip.

Community invited to Eclectic Concert

The Northern Marianas College's Proa Music Society, a student organization dedicated to cultivating students' vocal, instrumental, and dance talents, is inviting all community members to its annual "Eclectic Concert" on Friday, July 5, 2013, at the Round House in Garapan Central Park from 5pm to 11pm.

The club also aims to foster an appreciation of music or inspire an interest in music within the community through this event by way of showcasing different

genres and styles of music.

"Members of this club are inspired by music; we make music together in a way that we portray ourselves, our culture, and our lifestyles," said the club's vice president, Aaron Cabrera.

Cabrera added, "People of the CNMI have broad musical tastes and we try to put that all on stage every year."

The concert will highlight singing, dancing, and instrumental performances throughout the night. The dance per-

formances range from classical and contemporary hip hop, to cultural influences. The concert also will feature a variety of mash-up song performances from different genres of music including hip hop, pop, r, classical, rock, reggae, and oldies.

Ticket prices for children ages 12 and under is \$5, adults are \$10, and couples are \$15. The funds collected will help NMC's Proa Music Society acquire tools and instruments along with finding a poten-

tial rehearsal area for the club. Tickets may be purchased at the NMC Bookstore in Building E during regular business hours, by contacting either the NMC Student Center at 234-5498 Ext. 1251/1252 or Proa Music Society event coordinator Valerie Naputi at 233-6785/483-2263 and/or through email valerienaputi@yahoo.com.

For more information, contact Naputi at 233-6785/483-2263 or email valerienaputi@yahoo.com. (NMC)

Guam Senate passes bill to eventually ban gambling

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam's Senate has passed a bill to make all gambling in the U.S. territory illegal after it pays off debt for its financially troubled public hospital.

Pacific Daily News reported Tuesday that the Senate unanimously approved the bill, which allows some forms of gambling to continue until debt is paid for Guam Memorial Hospital.

The bill says all gambling would become illegal once the hospital retires all of its roughly \$18 million in vendor debt, the amount it owed as of March.

The hospital consistently loses money because of uninsured patients and bad collections.

Sen. Ben Pangelinan introduced the bill's sunset amendment and tried to establish an \$18.8 million target for the hospital's debt. But Sen. Rory Respicio of the Rules Committee said Pangelinan's figure would not be part of the final version sent to Gov. Eddie Calvo.

Calvo has 10 business days to decide how to act on the bill.

The measure comes after several days of vigorous debate on gambling machines, along with

back-and-forth earlier in the session on whether gambling should be legal in the unincorporated territory.

A separate bill to tax gambling machines died last week after ongoing fighting between the attorney general's office, the tax department, machine owners and lawmakers on all sides of the issue.

Speaker Judith Won Pat removed that bill from the session's agenda, and supporters responded by moving key provisions of the bill to the measure that eventually passed with the

amendments.

The bill establishes a Guam Gaming Commission. The commission would have 180 days to develop regulations.

Guam's tax department renewed licenses for more than 200 gambling machines earlier this month despite the ongoing fight.

The territory's attorney general, Leonardo Rapadas, has argued the machines are illegal because Guam law prohibits licensing gambling devices, trumping conflicting administrative rules and regulations.

Day 1 of Vacation Bible School draws 60 kids

Some 60 children of all ages participated in Day 1 of Saipan Community School's Vacation Bible School on Monday.

Church pastor Jason Warren said their goal for this year's VBS is the same as the church's goal in previous years.

"We strive to show how much Jesus loves us by loving other people and, in this case, the children. A sub-goal of ours is often stated this way: 'Reaching an island to touch the world,'" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

"Breathe It In: God Gives Life" is this year's theme for the VBS.

"The entire Vacation Bible School has that theme in mind, showcasing that God is indeed our life-giver and continues to sustain us through His life-giving breath."

Warren said they plan to accomplish their goals by creating a fun and exciting week filled with exhilarating activities, stimulated learning, and an overflow of encouragement.

He said VBS' everyday activities start with announcements, songs, and a short play. Coordinators then "release" the children by ages to separate classes.

Each class will have a Bible time, a craft time (where they will make a unique interactive item each night such as making their own bubble wand and bubbles), an activity time (where the children will take part in a game or challenge that represents what they are learn-



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan Community School pastor Jason Warren speaks to participants of the church's Vacation Bible School last Monday.

ing on that particular day), and dinner time.

Although Day 1 saw only 60 sign-ups, Warren expects the number to swell to double that—120—by week's end.

"We really do just want to

show all the children that attend that we are a church who would like to show as much love to them and appreciation for them as we can, while at the same time showing them how much God loves and cares for them as

well," he added.

The weeklong VBS of Saipan Community Church is from 6pm to 8:30pm and concludes with a final commencement service on Sunday, June 30, 6pm. (Saipan Tribune)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 13th birthday to our big baby, Leyanna Marie "Nana Girl." Wishing you many more birthdays and blessings on your special day! Reach for the stars and keep smiling because you are beautiful! We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Girlies Tun, your family, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy, happy birthday greetings go out to Grama Tona, Wil-Leina Antonette, and Leyanna Marie! Wishing you many more birthdays and blessings to come your way,

God bless and have a wonderful day. Coming out from all your family and friends. We love you!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 27, 2005

Enola Gay crew backs out from Tinian ceremonies

TINIAN—*Enola Gay* pilot Gen. Paul W. Tibbets and his crew have canceled their plan to attend this year's peace ceremonies on Tinian that celebrate the 60th year anniversary of the end of World War II. This comes as the Tinian local government is finalizing plans to bring in next month some survivors of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki for a peace ceremony called Hibakusha Experience. Tibbets piloted the *Enola Gay* plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

Korean group says it opposes protests

In what appears to be a toning down of some of the rhetoric used earlier regarding the visit of the Japan's imperial couple to the island, the Korean Association of Saipan vowed yesterday to oppose any plan by any demonstrators to disrupt today's event. The Korean association, led by its president Seung Baeg Kim, drew international media attention after it sent out a statement last week demanding Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to apologize to Koreans and other nationalities subjugated by the Japanese during World War II. However, in a statement issued yesterday, the Korean group maintained that its members sincerely welcome Japan's imperial couple to Saipan. The visit presents an opportunity for Saipan to be known throughout the world "as a beautiful, peaceful and safe destination," the group noted.

June 27, 2006

Fund taps \$1.3M of assets

The NMI Retirement Fund board approved Friday the release of \$1.3 million in investment money for pension payments this week. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said yesterday that the money is part of "excess" funds from the NMIRF's investment portfolio. The Fund board earlier identified \$14.4 million in "excess" investment monies for pension use up to September this year. This came following an initial request by the Executive Branch to suspend its employer contribution payment to the Retirement Fund for the remaining months of fiscal year 2006, which ends on Sept. 30. That request has been overtaken by events, with the Legislature and the Executive Branch soon enacting a law that extends the suspension up to the end of fiscal year 2007.

'We will pursue govt collections'

The NMI Retirement Fund said it would soon pursue legal action—either a petition for a temporary restraining order, a lawsuit, or both—against the central government following the enactment of a law suspending its employer contribution to the Fund. "The board has taken the position to contest and challenge the action of the government. We are going to push through our collections with the government," said Fund board chair Joseph Reyes in an interview yesterday. The board held a special meeting Friday last week to discuss the matter. He could not say exactly when the Fund will file the restraining order or the lawsuit, saying the agency's attorneys are still working on it.

June 27, 2007

CNMI offline for hours

The CNMI went offline for hours due to an "unforeseen" technical problem that beleaguered Pacific Telecom, Inc. early morning yesterday and created a communication vacuum that befuddled business establishments and offices on the three islands. At 10:30am yesterday, the islands went offline losing all Internet connection and services and some cellular communications. Internet connection and services resumed at around 8pm yesterday. PTI regional marketing manager Kathryn Barry said the company worked round the clock on the connectivity issues between the CNMI and Guam.

Downed voltage line causes islandwide outages

A downed high voltage primary power line in Chalan Kiya triggered island-wide outages on Saipan yesterday. Of eight electrical grids, only one was spared by outages that happened between 12:56am to 5:34am. The areas not affected were the Commonwealth Health Center, Chinatown, Navy Hill, and parts of Garapan or the Duty Free area. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. spokesperson Pamela Mathis told Saipan Tribune that a tree caused the high voltage line in the golf area behind McDonald's to fall at 12:56am.

Pacific region's health surveillance network praised

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Representatives of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Pacific Island countries and territories were very proud to hear an international expert recognizing the value of the long-established Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network during an international forum that took place earlier this month in La Reunion.

"For me, PPHSN is the first network that worked and it inspired us when forming the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network," said Dr. Mike Ryan, former director of WHO Global Alert and Response Team, professor of International Health at University College Dublin, and one of the keynote speakers at the forum.

The 1st International Forum on Public Health Surveillance and Response in island territories and countries gathered over 300 actors of health surveillance in human and animal health from the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the French Mediterranean regions.

"We were very pleased to hear Dr. Ryan's statement and all PPHSN members from Pacific Island ministries of health, regional organizations and training institutions can be very proud as well," said Dr. Yvan Souarès, deputy director of SPC's Public Health Division and one of the founders of PPHSN.

"PPHSN, which was created in 1996, has established robust services to support national and regional surveillance and response to epidemics and other public health emergencies that are really up to date, according to our exchanges with our counterparts working in the other island regions."

During the three days (from 11-13 June), 70 oral presenta-

tions and 60 posters created the opportunity to discuss many topics: different forms of surveillance, early warning and response systems, the development of e-health tools, emerging diseases, new challenges and opportunities in the field of vector control, and the One Health concept, combining animal health and human health.

"All the presentations were of high scientific level and it was very interesting to share our knowledge, experience and views with those of our counterparts from the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean, as they face similar problems specific to an island context," said Dr. Salanieta Saketa from Fiji, who was part of the Pacific delegation.

This forum has been a real success, both for the participants and the organizers: Agence de Santé Océan Indien, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the French Institute for Public Health Surveillance, with the support of the French Development Agency.

SPC's Public Health Division is committed to pursue the collaboration, and build up on commonalities (for economies of scale) and differences (expert resources) among Islands' public health networks, and has expressed an interest in hosting the second edition of the Forum in 2015.

The PPHSN is a voluntary network of countries and organizations dedicated to the promotion of public health surveillance and appropriate response to the health challenges of 22 Pacific Island countries and territories. Its first priorities are outbreak-prone diseases and public health emergencies in general. It was created in 1996 under the joint auspices of SPC and WHO. SPC is the focal point of the PPHSN Coordinating Body. SPC)

NOAA announces new fisheries science initiative for territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued yesterday the following statement on NOAA's new Territorial Fisheries Science Initiative. This initiative will support projects and efforts in Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico to increase locally-based science, build scientific and monitoring capabilities and enhance fisheries science capacity.

The fund allocates \$125,000 to the Pacific Fisheries Science Center and was discussed at the Western Pacific Council meeting yesterday in Honolulu.

NOAA has also agreed to expand on this effort next year, contingent on passage of a fiscal year 2014 appropriations bill for NOAA. Funding from next year's fund would expand this initiative and collect additional catch data on the fisher-

ies in the territories.

"I am pleased that NOAA is addressing our concerns of inadequate research funding to improve our fish stocks," said Bordallo. "Guam's artisanal, small scale fisheries are critical to our local food security. This initiative will help ensure that our fisheries conservation and management measures are based on the best scientific data available and addresses concerns from local stakeholders about the lack of tangible resources for certain data-gathering activities. Better data and coordination with local stakeholders will help federal and local officials make more informed decisions about maintaining and sustaining current fish stocks. Additionally, the data will help us protect our ocean ecosystems and ensure a sustainable future for our island." (*Office of the Delegate*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TASK FORCE GUAM

A Task Force Guam soldier of the 1-294th Infantry Regiment deployed to Afghanistan scans the area in his sector as his convoy makes its way through the crowded streets of downtown Kabul during their deployment in June 2013. Almost two months into their deployment, Task Force Guam soldiers have already covered more than 25,000 miles providing transportation and security to approximately 10,000 key leaders, military personnel, and civilians throughout Afghanistan. The unit belongs to the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment.

4 Chinese nationals slain in Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY (AP)—Four Chinese nationals have been stabbed to death in Papua New Guinea in what the South Pacific island nation's prime minister has condemned as a "brutal and cowardly" attack.

National police spokesman Dominic Kakas says the three men and one woman were killed Monday night at a shop they ran in Port Moresby, the capital. Kakas says the assailants entered through the back

door and stabbed the victims with knives.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill vowed in a statement Wednesday to bring the killers to justice.

Kakas says the victims are

believed to be related. Police don't know where in China they are from or how long they were in Papua New Guinea.

Police have questioned several people, including workers at the shop, but have made no arrests.

Resolution honors nat'l Chamorro veterans group

Guam Sen. Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D., introduced Resolution No. 182-32 yesterday in the 32nd Guam Legislature to recognize and commend the work of the National Organization for Chamorro Veterans of America for its advocacy and for being the national voice for Chamorro soldiers living in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the US.

NOVCA is a non-political,

non-partisan national advocacy organization based in the nation's capital that seeks to unite and organize Chamorro veterans in the 50 states to leverage their collective political influence to work on behalf of the Chamorro people throughout the United States, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

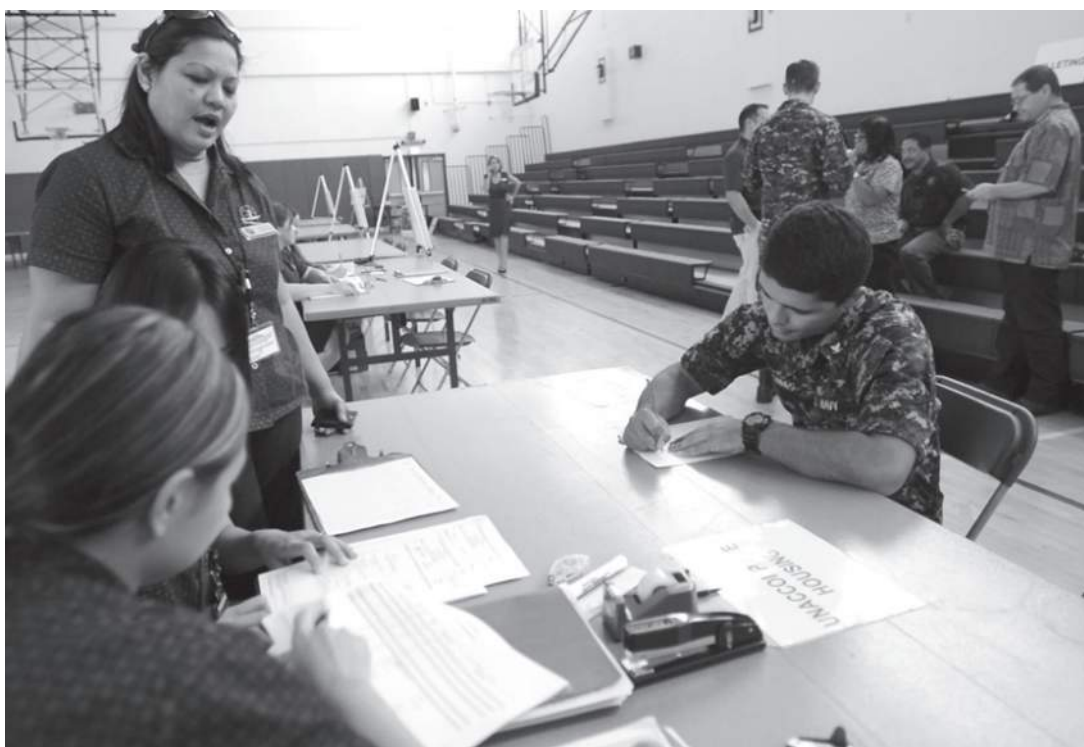


Yamashita

NOVCA recognizes and appreciates the Guam Veteran by honoring the memory and service of Chamorro veterans through commemorative events and initiatives and maintaining a website that features information of interest to Chamorro veterans.

"The Office of Families First! salutes the leadership of NOV-

CA for their visionary leadership and their efforts to heighten supports and services for the veterans and their families who sacrificed so that we may enjoy life as we do," said Yamashita. "It is pure genius to coordinate leadership in every state to advocate for the Chamorro veteran and their family, and it is pure genius to connect every national neighborhood through our roots and our pride for our island." (*PR*)



TYPHOON PAKYO EXERCISE

Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Richard Torres, U.S. Naval Base Guam chapel, seated right, participates in the emergency family assistance center scenario during the 2013 Typhoon Pakyo exercise at the Charles King Fitness Center on NBG June 20. The center was a post-disaster component of the exercise that simulated steps that would be taken in a real-life situation, refining the skills of Joint Region Marianas, Andersen Air Force Base, NBG and Government of Guam personnel. The exercise also educated civilians on the proper course of action island response teams would take in the event of a typhoon.

U.S. NAVY/CORWIN COLBERT

Opinion

Hafa Adali!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 127Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Pacific Islands News Association

Mahalan hos linala' i Fondu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

I ginen Gobietno as Benigno R. Fitial managu' gi hechuran lai na umahala i dos hos ni muna' lalala' i programan man-ritirau. I dos hos fumafage i programa fondun lina' la'.

Ti chagu', madeklara ayu na lai "unconstitutional" (illigat) sa' ha yulañg i kontratan man-ritirau yan gobietnu.

Esta monhayan makomple ni man-ritirau i patten niha—20 años na setbisiu—pues debi i gobietnu na u apase patteña gi fina' kontribusion man-emplelea.

Tatatte halom i lehisatura kulan polisian kabron ya ha segonduye 'nai mahala i dos hos ni munana'e mañglu' (oxygen) i programa. Dispues mañeha ya mañaunau man-bela gi siha pumunu' na programa kulan mohon man-inosiente.

'Nai mali'e na inipos ma-upos rayan niha, esta man-e'ensinahyau pa'gu para umakubre malabidan niha. Masede inayau "pension obligation bond" 'nai para umapega gi tatalu' famaguonta dibi ni fina-ñagu ni diskuidon niha.

Ti marepara na sin "corresponding contribution" siempre u matai i programan man-ritirau. Ni kuantu na ayau umapetsige pot dibin gobietnu gi programa lache todú kodu. Dispues, makat ma-apase este na dibi ginen fondun hinerat (general fund). Piot sa' dañkulu maribahaña rinikohen tax pot 'nos kuantos años na tiempu.

I tafafana' na diskuidu gai dadalag: Ha birague' tatte 'nos kuantos administrasion kontodu ayu na tiempu 'nai machuchuda' salape guine.

'Nai ha muebague' i industrian magagu, ni unu kalamten para u soda'e katsu ayu na gueku i ha pega gi kahan iya Marianas.

Mattu i federat ya ha chule' disposision immigrasion yan sueddu ni tinatiye ni man-disareglau na areglu ginen halom. Ni unu ta'lu mumueba kalañkeña para u ina haf' masusesede yan kuantu na destrosiu para poñga i ekonomian i tanu'.

Mangaige hit pa'gu gi halom tasin "kara'" (broke) pot diskuidun man-sabiun hegsu' i Deni'. Namatman sa' man-a'afaisen pagu haf' masusede. Lau man-estaba manotohge todú 'nai pañgpañg ayu na tsunami gi inai tano'ta. Haf' na taiguine te'ug chinatsagan i tanu' pagu? Faisen maisa hau sa' hagu ha' solu siña umoppe ennau na kuestion.

Dispues haf' na para umahala i hos ni umayuyuda i programa gi kinalamteña? Dalai ya ti malili'e na estague' na hos i munlalala' i programan US Social Security. Haf' mohon lai?

Priniponen casino

Esta monhayan ma-apprueba para ma-establesen casino giya Saipan gi sanpapa' na guma'. Fuetsau na prinipone pot ha nesessita i programan man-ritirau katsun fondu. Tiyahu lau gi uttimo biahe 'nai hu rikonose kanton tasi, ti mañoda'yu' kostat salape' para apas dibin gobietnu.

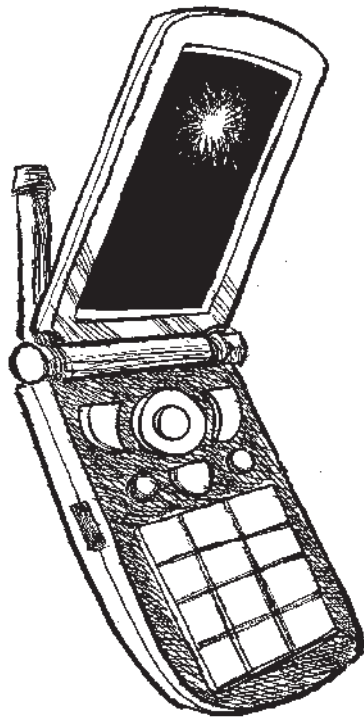
Taya' ayu na prinipone ha nesessita i para umana' saunau i dos islas (Luta yan Tinian) dididi' gi benefisiun este na industria. Ti presisu otu asuntu sa' esta ha' kabales i intension yan haf' ma-intended gi papa' i mapropopone.

Muñga mana' saunau otu asuntu 'nai uttimoña i para u fan man-inbette (invest) madagau i tuaya antes de umatutuhon intension este na lehislasion.

See MAHALAN on Next Page

HOW AN OMNIPOTENT NSA TRACKS OUR EVERY MOVE...

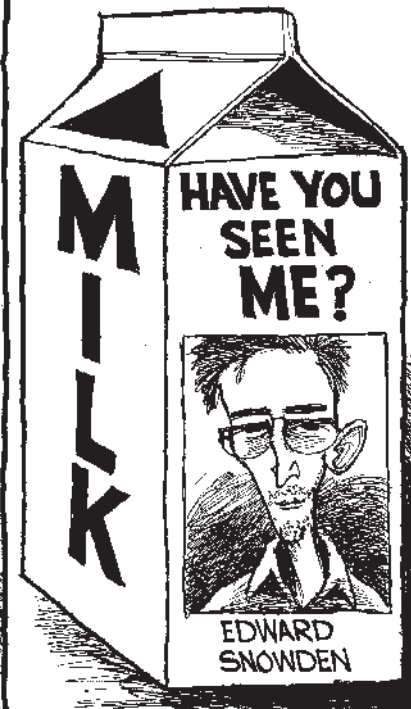
Cell Phones



Web Browsers



Other



Dalian, Huludao, Jilin, and Shenjing

Dalian is the southern city at the tip of the Liaoning promontory, near what was Port Arthur to the Russians. Huludao is a western city of the Liaoning Province by Liaodongwan of Bohai (gulf), previously fought over by the nationalists and communists before the 1949 final triumph of the Gongchangdang (CPC) and the exit of nationalist Chiang to Taiwan. Jilin is the province north of Liaoning, one of the three provinces of what is referred to as *Dong Bei* aka Manchuria. Shenjing is the old name of our city Shenyang, aka Mukden to the Russians and the Japanese.

Neither the history nor the geography of the four places is what interests us at the moment. It is the fact that four banks bearing their names are on the ground floors of the buildings near one of the major city bus depots where we terminate when we venture into the city. It is in front of one of two grand train stations in Shenyang, the Beizhan station, part of the sprucing up of facades and sidewalks before the city's hosting of the China Games in August.

It is the proliferation of banks that caught our fancy. In the U.S., we watched in the last 20 years the consolidation of bank institutions so much so that in the last five years, the term "too big to fail" has come to earn the government's bailout help in order not to unleash too much havoc on the financial market (stock exchange) when our favored ATM gets the red light. Now we learn that Obama's financial bailout bought "toxic" assets that only delayed the inevitable institutional collapse.

Every little city in China seems to have a bank of its own. Pu Dong, the eastern part of Shanghai across the Huangpu (Pu Xi, the western part is where the famed Bund is located) where the new international airport sits and where the city's new skyline is often portrayed on TV, is home to SPD, the bank used by my university to transfer my remuneration monthly. An office might have designated cash distribution in China. The game played is not Monopoly!

The U.S. actually has the most banks in the world in terms of institutions, excluding branches, compared to four times more populous China. This reflects the regulatory structure of the U.S.A., with a large number of small- to medium-sized institutions in its banking system. It also mirrors a rather open market. BoH and FHB dominate the \$ flow in the CNMI. A French company owns BoH, hardly congruent to the image we have of paddling Polynesian warriors and swaying hula skirts! As to BoG and BoS, well, on to the next point.

Informal banking is source to a third of small and medium enterprise capitalization in China and it comes from untraceable loans. We would like to explore the more tsk-tsk-tsk subject of illicit trade on currency exchange not too far from Shenzhen that triangulates Guangzhou (Canton), Aomen (Macao), and Xianggang (HK), but a

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

week series would just be touching the tip of the iceberg.

Bundles of Yuan from unexplainable sources, suspected to be ill-gotten, gets changed into Macao or HK gaming chips, claimed at the casinos, then spirited away into offshore accounts. It takes two weeks normal processing to convert at most ¥500K per official transaction into foreign currency. Illegal transactions are unlimited; it takes 30 minutes.

Tinian in our experience hosted many currency exchangers who got in hot water for allegedly not leaving their 10 percent behind at the casino. Money laundering is treated separately from the hotel bed sheets. Most recently, a casino officer was hauled to court for not following U.S. rules in declaring currency transactions above a certain range.

Today's banking is a modern institution built to regulate cash transactions. Started in Renaissance Italy, surplus earnings is deposited on the promise of gaining interest, while the same is lent out to investors who need the cash flow in exchange of a higher return from the savings rate. Because of the critical function of banks in any society, it is generally thought prudent to have them heavily regulated to assure reliability and integrity. When that fails, we go through savings and loans scandals or a currency value adjustment (banana republics are known to do this by just moving the decimal point in rates of exchange), or a more sophisticated version called the QE when the U.S. Federal Reserve authorizes more digital printing of money!

For a century since the end of the Opium War until Mao's *Gong Chang Dang* (CPC), HSBC reigned over banking in China. Hong Kong-Shanghai in the name is misleading. It is a British institution, not unlike the one that left the CNMI quickly when the economic downturn headed south. It is Np. 6 in asset size in global standing of 50 banks in 2008. Free market banking has been rapacious in its pursuit of profit.

Dalian, Huludao, Jilin and Shenjing Banks are presumably local banks. Granny's savings are presumably in them, and we shudder at the reliability of the development loans they carry. The polished door at the branches invites trust but it fits nicely with today's penchant for façades, China historically a faithful customer.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The ethical complaints process

The CNMI Disciplinary Committee, or DC, believes that it is important to dispel any misconceptions about the disciplinary process regarding ethical complaints filed against attorneys and persons engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. It is not the intent of this letter to give legal advice. Hopefully, the explanation is sufficiently simple to be understood by the any person who may wish to file a disciplinary complaint.

Composition and jurisdiction of the DC

The DC is composed of five members who are all attorneys licensed in the CNMI. The members are elected for two-year terms by all of the active members of the CNMI Bar Association and their service on the DC is entirely voluntary and uncompensated. Therefore, all time spent by each member investigating, discussing, and voting on complaints is a form of pro bono service that is donated for the benefit of both the legal profession and the general public.

Complaints may be filed not only against licensed attorneys, but also against anyone who attempts to provide legal services to another person. Persons who engage in the unauthorized practice of law are also subject to criminal prosecution.

How to file complaints

A complaint may be filed directly with the DC by delivering it to my office, or to the office of the Bar Association at the Guma Husticia. A complaint can also be filed by sending it through the U.S. mail, addressed to P.O. Box 502845. The complaint must be in *writing*, addressed to the DC, signed and dated by the complaining person. It should be sealed, with the word “Confidential” written on the outside of the envelope.

How the complaint is handled

Once the complaint is received, it is given an internal DC case number. Then, letters are sent to: 1) the complaining person, 2) the person against whom the complaint was filed, 3) the chief justice of the Supreme Court and 4) the presiding judge of the Superior Court. These letters simply state that the DC has received the complaint and the case number assigned to it. A copy of the complaint is attached to the letter sent to the attorney or other person who is the subject of the complaint. At the next monthly meeting of the DC, the new complaint is assigned to a member, who has no conflict of interest, to conduct the investigation. Among other things, the investigator contacts the person who is the subject of the complaint and asks for any comment or evidence he or she wishes to submit in response to the complaint. Once the investigator completes the

investigation, a written report of the investigation is submitted to the entire DC. The investigator recommends a position for the DC to adopt as to whether an ethical violation has occurred. The DC members vote on whether to adopt the recommendation of the investigating member. There are essentially only two recommendations possible. Either the facts of the complaint do not warrant further action (which typically means that no ethical violation was found), or that further action *is* warranted (the facts indicate that an ethical violations is likely). In the latter case, the complaint and the investigation report are referred to the presiding judge for further action. After the vote is taken, the DC advises the complaining person and the person complained about, in writing, of the result of the investigation and whether the case was forwarded to the Superior Court or closed.

The presiding judge reviews the report of the DC. If he agrees with the DC’s assessment, he appoints an attorney to prosecute the matter. That prosecuting attorney drafts a formal legal document called a “Complaint” which states the ethical rules it is alleged have been violated by the person complained of and the facts that establish the violation(s). At this point, the person who is the subject of the Complaint is given 20 days to file a response to the Complaint in court. The court sets the matter for trial, hears the evidence presented by both sides, and decides if an ethical violation was committed. If a violation is found by the court, it imposes an appropriate sanction.

Once the initial complaint of an ethical violation is received by DC, it is immaterial for purposes of the continued investigation and processing of the case that the attorney and the former client have reached any settlement or agreement and the client wishes to withdraw the complaint. If an attorney makes an effort to solve any problem or hardship caused to the client, that fact can be presented to the court to assist it in determining the appropriate sanction that should be imposed at the end of the entire process.

Range of sanctions

There is a range of sanctions a court may impose. The lowest possible sanction is the private reprimand. This is a warning from the court to the attorney, which is done privately, not publicly, but it does become a matter of the attorney’s professional record. This sanction is imposed when an attorney has technically violated an ethical rule but minimal harm has been done, and when it is an attorney who has practiced law for many years without any prior disciplinary action.

At the next level is the public reprimand. Here the warning is

By **TIMOTHY H. BELLAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Timothy H. Bellas is chairman of the CNMI Bar Association. He is a former associate judge of the CNMI Superior Court.



given publicly, typically by publishing the finding in the media that the attorney committed an ethical violation. A more serious sanction is a suspension for a definite period of time. This prohibits the attorney from practicing law during the suspension period. Usually there are terms and conditions the attorney must comply with in order to be reinstated to practice law. The ultimate sanction is disbarment, which takes away an attorney’s license to practice law. It is reserved for the most severe and repeated violations of the ethical rules.

Confidentiality of the complaint process

The Disciplinary Rules, which define all of the procedures that I have explained above, provide that the entire process, from the filing of the complaint and even the trial in court, are to remain confidential. Only if the court finds that an ethical violation was committed and imposes a sanction *greater than* a private reprimand is the matter no longer confidential and the information disclosed to the general public. Once a case is forwarded to the Superior Court for further proceedings, the matter is closed within the DC and it has no further involvement with the future processing of the matter.

An inquiry about whether an attorney is authorized to practice law in the CNMI may be made to the CNMI Bar Association Office.

In a recent letter published in the press, the author stated or implied that an unnamed member of the CNMI Judiciary had been suspended or disbarred as an attorney but was still able to perform the functions of a judicial officer. The records of prior disciplinary cases in which sanctions greater than a private reprimand were imposed are not required by any rule or statute to be catalogued or reported for any purpose. The DC does, however, maintain files of previous matters. A search of those files reveals that none of the current judges and justices of the CNMI has ever been a suspended or disbarred attorney. Inquiries about whether an attorney has been publicly reprimand or had a greater sanction imposed, can be made to the DC.

MAHALAN

From Page 10

Ti pa’gu na tiempu ‘nai para ta atisa sensian inadisgustu gi hagas man-afamauleg na natibu. Hu tuñgu’ na Luta yan Tinian hagas mana’e lokue’ los probes animu para u fañaunau man-na’halom kontribusion gi kahan Marianas.

Para ta komprende este, bira un’ ratu ya ta pega i sentrun iya Marianas gi unu na isla—Tinian pat Luta. Parehu siempre man-ñgaha’ hit hulu’ taimanu mapadedese pa’gu. Ahe’, ti man-e’epiduñg i mañeluta sa’ hagas man-ansiosu yan ansianu gi inespihan para u fan matufuñg kumu patte petmanente gi O’ Perlas Iya Pasifiku. Mauleg ta komprende este na puntu.

Aregla i disareglau na areglu

Gi tiempun hai’las, lache i para un’ poñga i komunidan bisnis mas tax. Esta ha’ sumen makat apas kandet yan hanom, haf’ bisnis miyu timiges mas i los prohimus? Dispues, haf’ na para ta punu’ solu patte gi ekonomia ni munana’ halom kontribusion tax para setbisium publiku?

Atan kuantu na bisnis humuchum pettan niha pot mampos guaguan i apas utilidat. Ya para ta fogse mas ‘nai ni para apas empleao appenanas (kara’)? Estague’ na pinadese u mafuetsas hinisgan areglu siha. Makat un’ konbinseyu’ na mas tax i dinanche na areglu. Uttimoña mas megai bisnis humuchum pettan niha. Haye dispues para un’ tax? Manu na lusenfetnus ‘nai para ta halaye nesessidat fondu i nesessidatta siha?

Debi i 29 na kabesa gi lehislatura u fan eg’gaga’ maseha pot para u makomprende dididi’ asuntu ni gumugupu gi hilu’ ilun niha. Muñga ma-atrebi hau gi ti un’ tuñgu’ na asuntu. Maulegña mamaisen ke linaisen. ‘An linaisen hau, siempre u fattu ennau na chatdisision papa’ gi tautau ni hagas man-ensinahau ayudu ginen i hegsu’ I Deni’. Haf’ mohon lai?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What will become of the CNMI?

I don’t know what readers are thinking but I can bet many are wondering what will become of the CNMI. We have been in a freefall for years and we are not climbing out of this social and economic mess created by the majority. Yes, the majority of voters have been *proven* to be *wrong* and that is the main reason why we are still suffering.

The CNMI has become a place where our children and adults must compete with alien workers for minimum wage and many in the business community do not care one bit. The CNMI has become a place where our children don’t have jobs or careers and they look forward to graduating so they can *leave* for the mainland.

The economic gloom and doom has been perpetuated mainly due to the administration’s pursuit of casinos. To make it worse, a casino industry will only offer more minimum wage jobs, not careers for our children. The CNMI has become a place where no industry exists with jobs that offer careers and a housing market that is all but nonexistent.

The U.S. State Department has told the world that the CNMI has become a destination or transit point for forced labor and sex trafficking, which is killing our national and international image. To make it worse, the immigration bill that will give citizenship to a population of alien workers that almost equals the local voting population spells political doom for the local majority in less than 50 years and we voted the people in office *knowing* they would do this to the CNMI! Our youth are struggling to compete with alien workers for minimum wages at home and trying to make a name for themselves and the CNMI in the mainland but there seems to be more interest in alien workers than the local people. I’m not knocking the alien workforce. I’m just more concerned about our own

youth as the first law of nature is “self-preservation” and we can’t even get that right for our children!

But what has become of our politics is truly putting the final nail in the coffin of the CNMI’s desire for locals to live and prosper within the CNMI. Our politics has forced too many locals with a degree and those getting a degree to move to the mainland. Our politics has forced parents, myself included, to tell their children to remain in the mainland after graduation and find a career there because there is *nothing* here in the CNMI. Affirmative action is what helped to level the playing field for blacks and it is obviously needed in the CNMI to help locals in what has become an alien workforce.

The present administration’s politics is clearly being driven by the desire to be re-elected and not so much about improvements. There has been a lot of cosmetic politicking with appointments, 25 to be exact. Why weren’t these appointments advertised to give others a chance to make improvements? There was no official request for applicants and they are all political appointments. We know there is nothing fair in this political process, just favoritism for political support to be re-elected. Just look at NMC and the complaints going back years but the governor re-appoints the same people! Fixing a problem with the same attitudes that caused it will *never* work! Our politics have continued to kill the hopes of our youth, retirees, landowners, investors, NMC stakeholders, and society in general. What will become of the CNMI is obvious that the future does not look good for locals.






Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼80

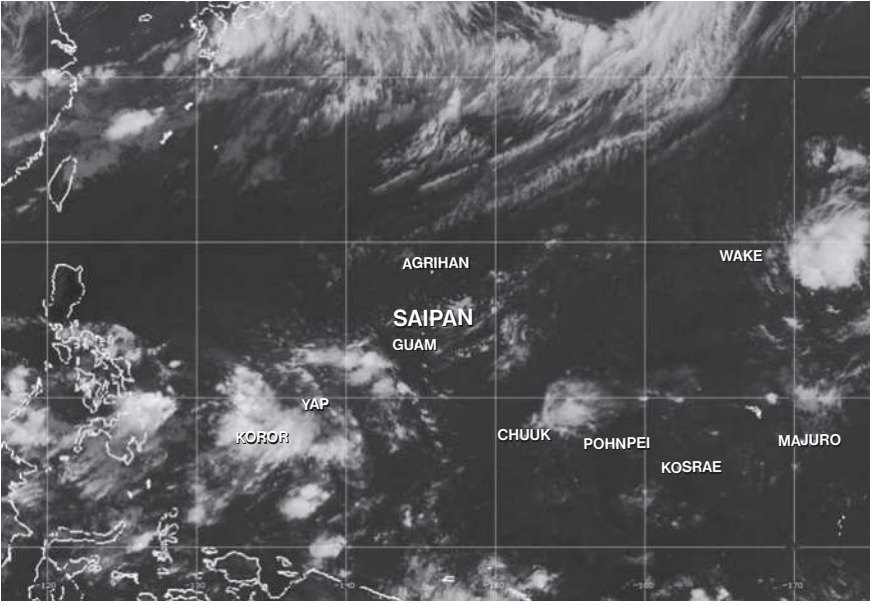
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲55 ▼47
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲95 ▼71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼83
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼67
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲92 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼71
Osaka	Cloudy	▲84 ▼70
Paris	Showers	▲68 ▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲77 ▼69
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼65
Salem	Showers	▲75 ▼60
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼58
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼70
Tokyo	Showers	▲77 ▼65
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲94 ▼76

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:52 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from a weak circulation centered at 10N130E to the north of Koror and Yap then southeastward to end at EQ148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are near Yap and Koror between 2N and 13N from 130E to 142E. A weak circulation northeast of Chuuk centered near 9N154E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 8N and 10N from 153E to 156E. A surface trough runs northeastward from southwest of Kwajalein at 8N168E to end northwest of Majuro at 12N169E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present near Kwajalein and Majuro between 7N and 11N from 168E to 172E. An upper-low centered east of Wake Island at 20N173E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 17N and 22N from 170E to 175E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:11 PM	9:27 AM
Friday	10:55 PM	10:24 AM
Saturday	11:38 PM	11:18 AM
Sunday		12:11 PM
Monday	12:19 AM	1:02 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5	MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)				KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7	SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16	XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Microsoft to unveil Windows 8.1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft is giving people a peek into Windows 8.1, a free update that promises to address some of the gripes people have with the latest version of the company's flagship operating system.

Although the preview version of Windows 8.1 is meant for Microsoft's partners and other technology developers, anyone will be able to download it for free starting Wednesday, exactly eight months since desktops, laptops and tablets with Windows 8 went on sale. The version of the Windows 8.1 update meant for the general public will come out later in the year, though a specific date hasn't been announced.

Many of the new features have been shown off already. A three-day Build conference, which starts Wednesday in San Francisco, will give Microsoft developers a chance to learn more about the new system and try it out. It also will give the company a chance to explain some of the reasoning behind the update and sell developers on

Microsoft's ambitions to regain relevance lost to Apple's iPad and various devices running Google's Android software.

There's also speculation that Microsoft could show off a new,



smaller version of its Surface tablet computers. One of the new features in Windows 8.1 is the ability to work well on smaller-screen devices.

Windows 8, which was released Oct. 26, was meant to be Microsoft's answer to changing customer behaviors and the rise of tablet computers. The operating system emphasizes touch controls over the mouse and the keyboard, which had been the main way people have interacted with their personal computers since the 1980s.

But some people have been put off by the radical makeover.

Although Microsoft has said it has sold more than 100 million Windows 8 licenses so far, some analysts have blamed the

lackluster response to the operating system for a steep drop in PC sales in the first three months of the year, the worst drop since tracking by outside research firms began in 1994.

Among the complaints: the lack of a Start button on the lower left corner of the screen. In previous versions of Windows, that button gave people quick access to programs, settings and other tasks. Microsoft replaced that with a tablet-style, full-screen start page, but that covered up whatever programs people were working on, and it had only favorite programs. Extra steps were needed to access less-used programs. Settings, a search box and other functions were hidden away in a menu that had to be pulled out from the right. How to do that changed depending on whether a mouse or touch was used.

And while Microsoft has encouraged people to use the new tablet-style layout, many programs—including Microsoft's latest Office software package—are designed for the older, desktop mode.

Changes coming with Windows 8.1

■ Windows 8.1 will let users launch the operating system in a desktop mode that resembles the setup found in older versions of Windows. Before, Windows 8 users were automatically taken to a full-page startup screen that displays applications in a mosaic of interactive tiles instead of static icons.

■ Microsoft isn't restoring the traditional start button on the lower left side of the screen, as requested by many users, but it is restoring a logo in that spot and will let users add favorite applications, such as Word and Excel, to a horizontal tool bar while working in the desktop mode.

■ Windows 8.1 will lean heavily on Microsoft's Bing

search technology to simplify things. As with Windows 8, the search bar can be found by pulling out a menu from the right side of a display screen. Rather than requiring a user to search categories such as files or apps separately, Windows 8.1 will make it possible to find just about anything available on the computer or on the Web with a single, comprehensive search.

■ The update will include a built-in connection with Microsoft's online storage system, SkyDrive, to back up photos, music and program files.

■ Internet Explorer 11, the next generation of Microsoft's Web browser, will come with Windows 8.1.

■ The new version will

have a lock-up screen that will display a slideshow of a user's favorite pictures.

■ Windows 8.1 will offer easier ways to move apps on the start screen and change the size of each app's on-screen tile.

■ Although Windows 8 allowed people to run two apps side by side, people were limited in how they could configure the screen. Windows 8.1 will give users more options to determine how much of the screen each app takes while showing up to four different programs.

■ The Outlook email app will come for free with a lightweight version of Windows, called Windows RT, designed for tablets such as Microsoft's Surface.

Reports reflect Fed's message of stronger economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. housing recovery is strengthening. Factories are fielding more orders. And Americans' confidence in the economy has reached its high point in 5 1/2 years.

That brightening picture, captured in four reports Tuesday, suggests that the economy could accelerate in the second half of the year. It underscores the message last week from the Federal Reserve, which plans to slow its bond-buying program this year and end it next year if the economy continues to strengthen. The Fed's bond purchases have helped keep long-term interest rates low.

Investors appeared to wel-

come the flurry of positive data. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 100 points to close at 14,760, and broader stock indexes also ended the day up. Those gains made up only a fraction of the markets' losses since Chairman Ben Bernanke said last week that the Fed will likely scale back its economic stimulus within months—a move that would send long-term rates up.

But the rising confidence of U.S. consumers shows that most Americans are focused on a better job market, said Beth Ann Bovino, chief economist at Standard & Poor's.

"Maybe households agree with the Fed: the economy is

improving," Bovino said.

The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index jumped this month to 81.4, the highest reading since January 2008. The New York-based research group said consumers appear more encouraged by economic conditions and more optimistic about where the economy and job market are likely headed over the next six months.

Last month, U.S. employers added 175,000 jobs, which almost exactly matched the average increase of the previous 12 months. Steady job growth has gradually reduced the unemployment rate to 7.6 percent from a peak of 10 percent in 2009.

Nation

GOP remains divided on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans are split over the immigration bill steaming toward approval at week's end, a divide that renders the ultimate fate of White House-backed legislation unpredictable in the House and complicates the party's ability to broaden its appeal among Hispanic voters.

To some Republicans, the strength of Senate GOP support for the bill is all but irrelevant to its prospects in the House. Conservatives there hold a majority and generally oppose a core provision in the Senate measure, a pathway to

citizenship for immigrants living in the United States illegally.

Any such impact is "greatly overrated," said Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt, who previously served as chief vote counter for House Republicans.

But Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., offered a different view. A Senate vote on Monday to toughen border security with thousands of new agents and billions of dollars in technology "obviously makes final legislation more likely," the party's 2012 vice presidential nominee said on CBS.

One prominent Democrat, Sen. Chuck Schumer of

New York, also says House sentiment can be changed, particularly through the addition of strong border security measures of the kind that resulted from negotiations with previously uncommitted Republicans.

"I believe a large bipartisan vote will wake up our colleagues ... in the House," Schumer said shortly before the Senate inserted a requirement for 20,000 new Border Patrol agents and a total of 700 miles of fencing along the border with Mexico.

"Hopefully, as congressmen look how their senators voted, they will be influenced by it."

Supreme Court halts use of key part of voting law

WASHINGTON (AP)—A deeply divided Supreme Court threw out the most powerful part of the landmark Voting Rights Act on Tuesday, a decision deplored by the White House but cheered by mostly Southern states now free from nearly 50 years of intense federal oversight of their elections.

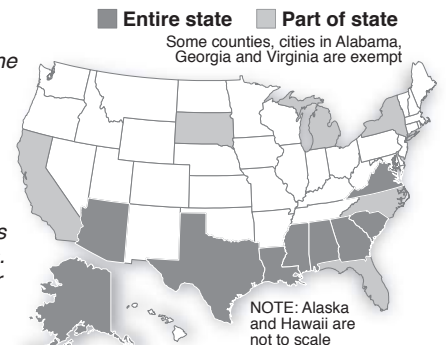
Split along ideological and partisan lines, the justices voted 5-4 to strip the government of its most potent tool to stop voting bias—the requirement in the Voting Rights Act that all or parts of 15 states with a history of discrimination in voting, mainly in the South, get Washington's approval before changing the way they hold elections.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for a majority of conservative, Republican-appointed justices, said the law's provision that determines which states are covered is unconstitutional because it relies on 40-year-old data and does not account for racial progress and other changes in U.S. society.

The decision effectively puts an end to the advance approval requirement that has

Gutting the Voting Rights Act

The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down a key part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, namely the formula used by the federal government to see which states need Justice Dept. approval for changes in voting procedures. (See map at right for states currently subject to the law.)



Key dates in the law's history

- 1965** Law passed to redress racial discrimination in voting, particularly in Southern states; Section 5, set to expire in five years, creates the clearance requirement; Section 4 establishes the formula
- 1970** Congress extends Section 5 for five years
- 1975** Extends Section 5 for seven years
- 1982** Extends Section 5 for 25 years
- 2006** Congress renews law after holding hearings on continuance of racial discrimination in voting; extends Section 5 again for 25 years; formula uses 1972 election data
- 2009** Supreme Court sidesteps ruling on 2006 extension
- 2013** Court strikes down Section 4, saying formula is outdated; law cannot be enforced until Congress creates a more current formula

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, New York Times, AP Graphic: Pat Carr, Judy Treible

© 2013 MCT

been used to open up polling places to minority voters in the nearly half century since it was first enacted in 1965, unless Congress can come up

with a new formula that Roberts said meets "current conditions" in the United States. That seems unlikely to happen any time soon.

ACROSS THE NATION

Army to cut brigades at 10 US bases

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Army will eliminate at least 12 combat brigades, relocate thousands of soldiers and cancel \$400 million in construction projects as the first wave of federal budget cuts takes aim at military communities around the country. In a massive restructuring, Army leaders said Tuesday that they will slash the number of active duty combat brigades from 45 to 33, as the service moves forward with a longtime plan to cut the size of the service by 80,000. And they warned that more cuts—of as many as 100,000 more active duty,

National Guard and Reserve soldiers—could be coming if Congress allows billions of dollars in automatic budget cuts to continue next year. The sweeping changes would eliminate brigades—which number from 3,500 to 5,000 troops—at 10 Army bases in the U.S. by 2017, including those in Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, Colorado, North Carolina, New York, Kansas and Washington.

Nanny cam shows intruder beating NJ woman near kid

MILLBURN, N.J. (AP)—A hulking robber forced his way into a home and attacked a woman watching cartoons

with her 3-year-old daughter, punching and kicking her in a series of assaults recorded by a home surveillance camera before throwing her down the basement stairs and nonchalantly walking out the front door, police said. Portions of the nanny cam footage were aired on television Tuesday as police sought the public's help in identifying the man responsible for the attack, which occurred Friday morning in Millburn, a suburb of about 20,000 residents just west of New York. Police withheld the woman's name to protect her identity and requested the faces of her and her child be blurred when the video was aired.



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\$18.95

Essential Home 5pc Tray Set
\$55.95

Galanz 10-Cup Rice Cooker
\$31.95



Cookinex 12 pc Stainless Steel Cookware Set
\$89.95



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\$47.95



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\$119.95



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\$124.95

Igloo Marine 70 quart Cooler
\$59.95



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\$19.95



South Eagle Table Fan
\$22.95

Homz 3-Drawer Cart
\$23.95



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\$65.95

Long Board Skateboards
\$55.95

EVA Colored Flooring
\$8.95



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\$109.95

Rubbermaid Roughneck 32gal Trashcan
\$25.95

ROUGHNECK



Craftsman Evolv 5gal 3-Peak Wet/Dry Vac
\$54.95

Asia

An eyewitness account of Taliban attack on presidential compound

By RAHIM FAIEZ
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—One moment I was standing in a quiet, secure and heavily guarded area and the next it had turned into a battlefield.

It was 6:30 a.m., and I waiting with about 20 other journalists for an escort into the palace for a speech by President Hamid Karzai. It was a routine assignment for Kabul journalists, and the presidential compound is a scenic and peaceful oasis lined with pine trees in my chaotic hometown.

Suddenly I saw the four armed men jump out of their vehicle. They knelt down and started shooting. Two of them fired at presidential palace security guards stationed at a checkpoint. The two others aimed their weapons at the Ariana Hotel, where the CIA is known to have an office.

I didn't know what to do. Bullets were flying all over. Gunfire was coming from different directions. No one really knew who were the attackers and who were the security forces because both sides were wearing similar uniforms.

I thought at first that this must be an insider attack or an argument between security guards. I just couldn't believe that Taliban fighters could have made it this far into the presidential compound, through two checkpoints. Soon I realized they must be Taliban.

I hit the ground and kept my head down, asking myself, what

I should do? I looked around to try to find a place to use as a shelter and call my office—report the news as fast as possible.

Mostly, though, my thoughts focused on my small children—my nearly 6-year-old son, Mohammad Akmal, and my two daughters, Hadia, who is 4, and Muqadasa, just 15 months.

Some other reporters took shelter behind an armored SUV used by an American television network. A few others lay in a ditch.

I saw a white, small, religious shrine nearby, and crawled about 10 to 15 meters (yards), then ran as fast as I could toward the wall of the shrine. I saw blood on my clothes but was sure I had not been hit. Later I noticed scratches on my arms and knees from pulling my body across the ground.

I finally reached the wall and thought it was safe enough to take my mobile phone and call the office.

Breathless and scared, I shouted over the phone to a colleague, "David, attackers are inside and shooting is going on." He was shocked.

Grenades and rockets were exploding in the background and automatic weapons were firing. My colleague asked, "Are you safe, Rahim? Are you OK?" I replied I was fine, even if I wasn't entirely.

Then I managed to take a deep breath and started reporting, the battle still going on in the background.

Most of the reporters moved with me behind the shrine.

Looking out, we saw a small

boy, around 6 years old, wearing a school uniform and running close to us. He was so brave, not crying, but of course very worried.

We grabbed him and pulled him behind the wall. He didn't know how to call his parents but one of the reporters had a number for the director of his nearby school. He called and told the director that one of his students was with us and safe.

I wanted to move out from behind the wall and take some photos with my cell phone. But bullets kept coming and never gave me the chance. We all wanted to leave from our precarious position, but security guards from the other gate, about 50 meters (yards) away from us, kept shouting that we must stay there. Otherwise we could be shot from the CIA building because guards there wouldn't know who we were.

We sheltered behind that wall for about an hour until the shooting finally eased. During that time, my father called me twice. I lied to him, telling him I was farther from the battle than I really was.

More guards moved into the area, first securing it and finally motioning to us one by one to leave. By then, we later learned, eight attackers and three guards lay dead.

But at the moment I wasn't sure whether other attackers were hiding nearby. I felt safe only when I finally got away from the area. I called my father and told him I was on my way back to the office and not to worry.

setting illegal fires on Sumatra island to clear land after numerous blazes created a thick haze choking parts of Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, police said Tuesday. The farmers were arrested Monday and Tuesday after being caught "red-handed," said local police spokesman Lt. Col. Hermansyah. He did not say whether they were employed by some companies that have been accused of deliberately starting the fires.

Rescue copter from India flood zone crashes, 8 die

GAUCHAR, India (AP)—An air force helicopter returning from a rescue mission in flood-ravaged northern India hit a mountain and fell into a river, killing the eight people on board, officials said. Bad weather has hampered rescue efforts in Uttarakhand state, where more than 1,000 people are believed to have died and thousands of others remain stranded in remote areas because of land-

slides and floods triggered by torrential monsoon rains. The air force has ordered an inquiry into the crash in the temple town of Kedarnath, said Priya Joshi, an air force spokeswoman. Five crew members and three civilians were on board the helicopter, she said.

Space capsule returns from mission to Chinese lab

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese space capsule with three astronauts safely landed Wednesday on the country's northern grasslands after a 15-day trip to a prototype space station, marking the latest success for China's manned space program as it enters its second decade. The Shenzhou 10's descent module landed by parachute in the vast territory of Inner Mongolia early Wednesday with the three crew members smiling and waving on live television after wriggling through the blackened capsule's narrow hatch.

World

'Nyet' to US request to turn over Snowden

MOSCOW (AP)—Yes, he's at a Moscow airport, and no, you can't have him.

Russian President Vladimir Putin gave the first official acknowledgment of the whereabouts of National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden on Tuesday and promptly rejected U.S. pleas to turn him over.

Snowden, who is charged with violating American espionage laws, fled Hong Kong over the weekend, touching off a global guessing game over where he went and frustrating U.S. efforts to bring him to justice.

Putin said Snowden is in the transit zone of Sheremetyevo Airport and has not passed through Russian immigration, meaning he technically is not in Russia and thus is free to travel wherever he wants.

After arriving Sunday on

a flight from Hong Kong, Snowden registered for a Havana-bound flight Monday en route to Venezuela and then possible asylum in Ecuador, but he didn't board the plane.

Speculation has been rife that Russian security services have been talking to Snowden and might want to keep him in Russia for a more thorough debriefing, but Putin denied that.

"Our special services never worked with Mr. Snowden and aren't working with him today," Putin said at a news conference during a visit to Finland.

Because Moscow has no extradition agreement with Washington, it cannot meet the U.S. request, he said.

"Mr. Snowden is a free man, and the sooner he chooses his final destination the better it is for us and for him," Putin said. "I hope it will not affect the

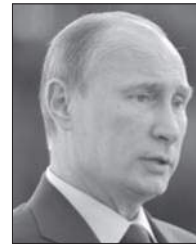
businesslike character of our relations with the U.S. and I hope that our partners will understand that."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday that the U.S. wants Russia to show respect for the rule of law and comply with common practices when it comes to fugitives from justice.

Putin's staunch refusal to consider deportation shows his readiness to further challenge Washington at a time when U.S.-Russian relations are already strained over Syria and other issues, including a Russian ban on adoptions by Americans.

"Just showing America that we don't care about our relations, we are down to basically a Cold War pattern: The enemy of your government is our friend," said Masha Lipman of the Carnegie Moscow Center.

"The Russian administration has not come that far, but we don't know what it's up to," she said.



Putin

Qatar ruler hands power to son



A man watches a televised address by Qatar's Emir Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—With a few words in a short speech, Qatar's huge energy riches and its expanding political influence passed into the hands of a 33-year-old ruler Tuesday in a seamless transition from a region where old guard leaders have been toppled or besieged by the Arab Spring.

The transfer of power—made official in a brief statement by Qatar's outgoing emir—was stunning for both its simplicity and far-reaching repercussions.

It quietly brought a new generation to the forefront of Middle East affairs in an apparent Gulf-style riposte to the pressures for a new style of leadership inspired by the region's upheavals: More youthful and possibly more attuned to demands for a

greater public voice in political decision-making.

The rise of the new emir, Sheik Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, also reorders the ruling fraternity among the Western-backed Gulf Arab leaders—most decades older than Sheik Tamim—and further boosts Qatar's image for bold-stroke policies that have produced crown jewels such as the Al-Jazeera TV network and serious challenges including its unwavering backing for Syrian rebels.

At its heart, however, the move is certain to be perceived as a direct swipe at traditions among the Gulf's other ruling dynasties that power can only be surrendered through death or palace coup—which is how Qatar's now-former emir, Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, took control in 1995

from his father.

Sheik Hamad, 61, used a televised address to note repeatedly the importance of shifting leadership to more youthful hands—an indirect acknowledgment of the demands for reforms opened by the Arab Spring, which began in 2011 with successful revolutions ousting leaders in Tunisia and Egypt and spread across the Arab world.

But shortly before handing over power, Sheik Hamad showed caution about moving too fast. He extended the term of the country's advisory panel, known as the Shura Council, the official Qatar News agency reported. It didn't say how long the term would last, but the move is likely to delay elections for a more powerful legislative body proposed for later this year.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine troops battle breakaway Muslim rebels

COTABATO, Philippines (AP) — Philippine troops have clashed with hardline Muslim guerrillas behind the recent killings of two villagers and an attack on an army detachment, shattering months of relative calm in the country's restive southern heartland, military officials said Tuesday. An artillery bombardment forced more than 200 fighters of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement to withdraw from their rural encampment Monday on the border of Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao provinces, said army Col. Edmund Pangilinan, adding that troops were pursuing the insurgents. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Indonesia arrests 8 in fires causing choking haze

PEKANBARU, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian authorities have arrested eight farmers for

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—For more than a decade now, Americans have made peace with the uneasy knowledge that someone—government, business or both—might be watching.

We knew that the technology was there. We knew that the law might allow it. As we stood under a security camera at a street corner, connected with friends online or talked on a smartphone equipped with GPS, we knew, too, it was conceivable that we might be monitored.

Now, though, paranoid fantasies have come face to face with modern reality: The government is collecting our phone records. The technological marvels of our age have opened the door to the National Security Agency's sweeping surveillance of Americans' calls.

Torn between our desires for privacy and protection, we're now forced to decide what we really want.

"We are living in an age of surveillance," said Neil Richards, a professor at Washington University's School of Law in St. Louis who studies privacy law and civil liberties. "There's much more watching and much more monitoring, and I think we have a series of important choices to make as a society—about how much watching we want."

But the only way to make those choices meaningful, he and others said, is to lift the secrecy shrouding the watchers.

"I don't think that people routinely accept the idea that government should be able to do what it wants to do," said Marc Rotenberg, president of the Electronic Privacy Information Center. "It's not just about privacy. It's about responsibility ... and you only get to evaluate that when government is more public about its conduct."

The NSA, officials acknowledged this week, has been collecting phone records of hundreds of millions of U.S. phone customers. In another program, it collects audio, video, email, photographic and Internet search usage of foreign nationals overseas who use any of the nine major Internet providers, including Microsoft, Google, Apple and Yahoo.

In interviews across the country in recent days, Americans said they were startled by the NSA's actions. Abraham Ismail, a 25-year-old software designer taking advantage of the free Wi-Fi outside a Starbucks in Raleigh, N.C., said in retrospect, fears had prompted Americans to give up too much privacy.

"It shouldn't be so just effortless," he said, snapping his fingers for emphasis, "to pull people's information and get court orders to be able to database every single call, email. I mean, it's crazy."

The clash between security and privacy is far from new. In 1878, it played out in a court battle over whether government officials could open letters sent through the mail. In 1967, lines were drawn over government wiretapping.

Government used surveillance to ferret out Communists during the 1950s and to spy on Martin Luther King and other civil rights leaders during the

NSA revelations force question: What do we want?

We are living in an age of surveillance. There's much more watching and much more monitoring, and I think we have a series of important choices to make as a society—about how much watching we want.

1960s.

But in earlier times, courts, lawmakers and the public eventually demanded curbs on such watching. Those efforts didn't stop improper government monitoring, but they restrained it, said Christian Parenti, author of "The Soft Cage: Surveillance in America from Slavery to the War on Terror."

The difference now, he and other experts say, is that enormous advances in personal technology and the public's broad tolerance of monitoring because of shifting attitudes about terrorism and online privacy have given government and private companies significantly more power—and leeway—to monitor individual behavior.

The tolerance of government monitoring stems in large part from the wave of fear that swept the country after the 2001 attacks, when Americans granted officials broad new powers under the PATRIOT Act. But those attitudes are nuanced and shifting.

In a 2011 poll by The Associated Press and the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 54 percent of those surveyed felt protecting citizens' rights and freedoms should be a higher priority for the government than keeping people safe from terrorists. At the same time, 64 percent said it was sometimes necessary to sacrifice some rights and freedoms to fight terrorism.

"Whenever something like 9/11 happens, it does tend to cause people to change their minds," Richards said. "But I think what's interesting is it has to be a long-term conversation. We can't, whenever we're scared, change the rules forever."

But up until now, there's been only limited debate about where and how to redraw the lines on surveillance. At the same time, explosive growth in social networking, online commerce, smartphone technology, and data harvesting for targeted marketing have introduced many Americans to all sorts of rich new experiences and conveniences. People have become enamored with the newest technology and media without giving hard thought to the risks or tradeoffs, experts say.

"This ... has really dulled our sense of what privacy is, why it's important,"

Parenti said.

"The fact of the matter is that millions of people are actively participating in keeping dossiers on themselves."

It can, at first glance, seem a leap to draw a line between the way we share our private lives on Facebook or our search habits with Google and concerns about government surveillance. But surrendering privacy, whether to business or government, fundamentally shifts the balance of power from the watched to the watchers, experts say.

Americans may have largely accepted the idea of sharing personal information with businesses or in open forums as the necessary tradeoff for the use of new technologies. But they have done so without stopping to consider what those businesses are doing with it or how police or security officials might tap into it.

"We've allowed surveillance of all kinds to be normalized, domesticated, such that we frequently fail to tell the difference between harmful and helpful surveillance," said David Lyon, director of the Surveillance Studies Centre at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. "And we assume all too easily that if it's high tech, it's better."

In interviews in recent days, many people described a growing sense of unease about the trade-offs between privacy, technology and the desire for safety.

In Chicago, Joey Leonard, a clerk at the Board of Trade, sat outside at lunch hour checking apps on his smart phone and ruminated about the government's actions. Leonard, a recent college graduate, noted that he was just 11 at the time of the 2001 terrorist attacks. He approved of the heightened security measures to prevent a recurrence. But he said it has also become clear that terrorists will act even if the gov-

Salt Lake City resident Deborah Harrison, who is 57 and manages clinical trials at the University of Utah, recalled the uncertain days after 9/11 and said, while she was shocked by the government's efforts, she understood them. What concerns her more, she said, is whether private companies are monitoring her behavior.

"They can track all your preferences and who knows who sells what to whom. That disturbs me actually more, than I guess the purpose of using it for national security," she said.

And in Sacramento, Calif., Amos Gbeintor, an information analyst originally from Liberia, spoke of his frustrations with an increasing web of surveillance. He recalled a recent trip to New York City, where security cameras hovered over numerous street corners. Employers

put video cameras in the workplace without telling employees. It's difficult anymore, he said, to find a private moment in life. The reports of NSA surveillance leave him disappointed in the Obama administration and, so far, in Americans' willingness to surrender their right to privacy.

"The younger generations are so used to putting everything about themselves out there that maybe they don't realize they're selling themselves out. I don't know whether they are desensitized to a loss of privacy, but they sure are reluctant about reacting," he said. But, maybe, this will wake people up, he said.

The revelations about the NSA's surveillance could indeed be a turning point in driving debate, Lyon said. But technology is so pervasive and those doing the surveillance so reluctant to share what they do, that the questions will take time to answer.

Richards, the Washington University professor, was reminded of a phone conversation a few years ago to a cousin in Britain who asked for his views on U.S. politics. Just as he was about to reply, Richards said, he took stock of the situation. A phone call across borders. A foreigner on one end of the line. Criticism of elected leaders. It seemed just the kind of conversation that might be picked up by a government computer. But there was no way to know—and so Richards said he decided he had no choice but to keep his mouth shut.

"It's a symptom of the times we're living in and the choices we're going to have to make ... one way or the other," he said. "We don't accept total surveillance in the name of crime prevention and I think people are coming to reject total surveillance in the name of terrorism prevention."

"But it's hard to reject surveillance if you don't know it's there."

Environment

Obama opens 2nd-term drive against climate change

WASHINGTON (AP)—Appealing for courageous action “before it’s too late,” President Barack Obama launched a major second-term drive Tuesday to combat climate change and secure a safer planet, bypassing Congress as he sought to set a cornerstone of his legacy.

Abandoning his suit jacket under a sweltering sun at Georgetown University, Obama issued a dire warning about the environment: Temperatures are rising, sea level is climbing, the Arctic ice is melting and the world is doing far too little to stop it. Obama said the price for inaction includes lost lives and homes and hundreds of billions of dollars.

“As a president, as a father and as an American, I’m here to say we need to act,” Obama said. “I refuse to condemn your generation and future generations to a planet that’s beyond fixing.”

At the core of Obama’s plan are new controls on new and existing power plants that emit carbon dioxide—heat-trapping gases blamed for global warming. The program also will boost renewable energy production on federal lands, increase efficiency standards and prepare communities to deal with higher temperatures. Obama called for the U.S. to be a global leader in the search for solutions.

But Obama’s campaign will face extensive obstacles, including a complicated, lengthy process of implementation and the likelihood that the limits on power plants will be challenged in court. Likewise, the instantaneous political opposition that met his plan made clear the difficulty the president will face in seeking broad support.

“There will be legal challenges. No question about that,” former EPA Administrator Christie Whitman said in an interview. “It’s a program that’s largely executive. He doesn’t need Congress. What that does, of course, is make them (Congress) madder.”

Obama also offered a rare insight into his deliberations on whether to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline, deeming it in America’s interests only if it doesn’t worsen carbon pollution. Obama has faced intense political pressure from supporters and opponents of the 1,200-mile pipeline from Canada to Texas.

Declaring the scientific debate over climate change and its causes obsolete, Obama mocked those who deny that humans are contributing to the warming of the planet.

“We don’t have time for a meeting of the flat-earth society,” Obama said.

Obama’s announcement followed years of inaction by Congress to combat climate change. A first-term effort by Obama to use a market-based approach called cap-and-trade to lower emissions failed, and in February a newly re-elected Obama issued lawmakers an ultimatum in his State of the Union: “If Congress won’t act soon to protect future generations, I will.”

Four months later, impatient en-



Obama

vironmental activists reveled in the news that Obama was finally taking matters into his own hands, announcing a series of steps that don’t require congressional approval.

“This is the change we have been waiting for,” said Michael Brune, who runs the Sierra Club, an environmental group. “Today, President Obama has shown he is keeping his word to future generations.”

Republicans on both sides of the Capitol dubbed Obama’s plan a continuation of his “war on coal” and “war on jobs.” The National Association of Manufacturers claimed Obama’s proposals would drive up costs. Republican Rep. Shelley Moore Capito of the coal-heavy state

of West Virginia slammed what she called Obama’s “tyrannical efforts to bankrupt the coal industry.”

“The standard the president set today should lead to speedy approval of the Keystone pipeline,” said Brendan Buck, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Announcing he will allow more renewable energy projects on public lands, Obama set a goal to power the equivalent of 6 million homes by 2020 from sources like wind and solar, effectively doubling the current capacity. The set of actions also includes a new set of fuel efficiency standards for heavy-duty trucks, more aggressive efficiency targets for buildings and appliances, and \$8 billion in federal loan guarantees to spur innovation.

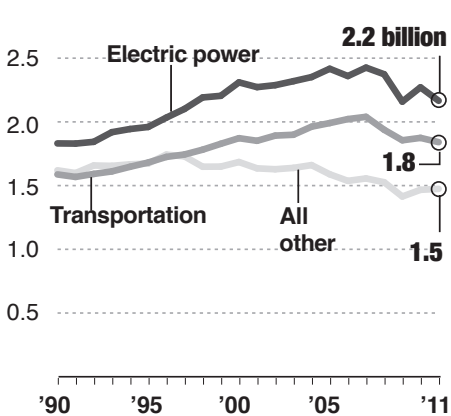
By far the most sweeping element—and the one likely to cause the most consternation—is new limits on carbon dioxide pollution from power plants.

Power plants and emissions

President Barack Obama announced a plan to curb U.S. carbon emissions, a major cause of global warming. A look at power plant emissions, the biggest source of carbon dioxide pollution:

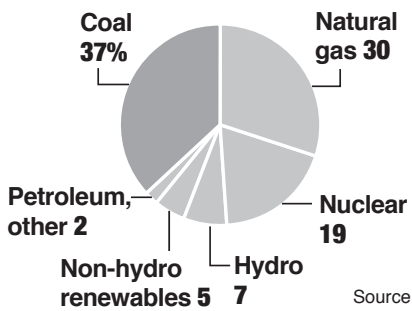
U.S. carbon emissions by sector

In billions of metric tons of carbon dioxide



Coal biggest source of electricity

Energy sources used by power plants, 2012



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Natural Resources Defense Council
Graphic: Judy Treible

of West Virginia slammed what she called Obama’s “tyrannical efforts to bankrupt the coal industry.”

“The federal government should leave us the hell alone,” said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, whose agency handles Texas’ environment and energy markets.

Even industry groups that have been friendly to Obama and supportive of his climate goals, such as the Edison Electric Institute, which represents power plants, signaled their apprehension by calling for “achievable compliance limits and deadlines.”

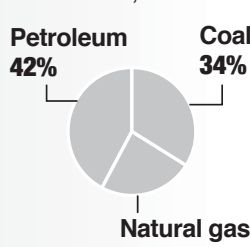
Obama said the same arguments have been used in the past when the U.S. has taken other steps to protect the environment.

“That’s what they said every time,” Obama said. “And every time, they’ve been wrong.”

Obama broke his relative silence

Carbon emissions by major fuel

Total: 5,480.6 million metric tons, 2011



What causes global warming?

- Carbon dioxide and other air pollution traps heat from the sun; heat causes the Earth to warm
- Some impacts: weather extremes, warmer oceans, disruption of animal habitats and extinctions, rising sea levels

Obama’s climate plan takes aim at coal plants

NEW YORK (AP)—America is slowly moving toward cleaner sources of energy and using less of it overall. President Barack Obama’s plan to fight climate change will accelerate those trends.

The plan aims to reduce power-plant emissions of carbon dioxide, increase America’s reliance on natural gas and renewables and make trucks, homes and businesses more efficient.

Some parts of the plan will take months to work out and years to go into full effect. The most ambitious part of the plan seeks to rein in one of the biggest sources of carbon dioxide emissions: coal-fired power plants. Obama will direct the Environmental Protection Agency to create the first-ever federal limits on these emissions, which trap heat in the earth’s atmosphere.

Obama also seeks to increase funding for clean energy research by 30 percent to \$7.9 billion and make \$8 billion in federal loan guarantees available to projects that could help capture and bury the carbon dioxide produced at power plants.

Here’s how the plan will likely affect companies and consumers:

UTILITIES AND COAL PRODUCERS

Power plants account for 40 percent of the nation’s carbon dioxide emissions, and most of those emissions come from burning coal. To reduce these emissions, power companies will have to run coal plants less often, install equipment that captures carbon dioxide or shut down plants that become too expensive to operate.

The cost to make these changes are likely so great that utilities would instead generate more power with natural gas, nuclear, wind and solar power, which will become comparatively less expensive and more profitable.

Very few, if any, new coal-fired plants will be built. A shift toward natural gas power plants is already underway thanks to a boom in natural gas production that has caused the price of the fuel to plummet; Obama’s plan will magnify this trend, analysts say.

The stock prices of the nation’s biggest coal miners, including Peabody Energy Corp., Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. and Arch Coal, Inc., have fallen more than 10 percent over the past two days as details of Obama’s plan trickled out.

The financial effect on utilities that rely heavily on coal, such as NRG Energy and First Energy, is unclear. While coal-fired power will become more costly, that will be offset by higher electricity prices.

Obama’s plan offers clear benefits to natural gas producers such as Exxon Mobil and Chesapeake Energy and to utilities such as Exelon, Entergy and Calpine, which generate large amounts of electricity using low-carbon sources like nuclear power and natural gas.

RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPANIES

By directing the Department of Interior to accelerate permits to clean energy developers who want to use public land, Obama will make it less expensive for companies to build wind, solar and geothermal energy projects.

This will help companies that provide

equipment for, build and finance large wind and solar farms, such as First Solar, SunPower, General Electric and Siemens.

Wind, solar, and other non-hydroelectric renewable power sources generated 4.8 percent of the nation’s electricity last year, double what those sources contributed to the nation’s energy mix five years ago. Over that same period, total electricity consumption fell by one percent as the economy slowed and appliances and buildings have become more efficient.

Experts predict that U.S. electricity consumption will grow very slowly, if at all, in the years to come.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Companies that install windows, insulation and heating and cooling systems stand to benefit from Obama’s plan, which will give homeowners and businesses incentives to invest in energy-efficiency improvements. While the upfront costs can be high, the long-term savings can be significant.

Obama also wants the EPA to develop new fuel efficiency standards for heavy trucks, which are the second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector after cars. Obama has already implemented new fuel economy standards for cars through 2025.

Tighter fuel efficiency standards and higher gasoline and diesel prices over the last several years have cut sharply into U.S. oil consumption. Last year total U.S. consumption of petroleum products fell to 18.6 million barrels per day, the lowest level since 1997. Consumption is expected to fall further as newer fuel economy standards take effect.

The new standards for trucks would go into effect for vehicles made in 2018 and beyond. Engine-makers and parts suppliers that succeed in developing fuel-efficient technologies could benefit. While trucking companies may face higher equipment costs at first, their fuel bills will decline.

ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS

Homeowners and businesses will likely pay more for electricity because the nation will be relying less on coal, which has historically been the cheapest way to produce electricity.

But more efficient homes and appliances are helping reduce energy consumption, which will likely offset at least some of the higher electricity cost.

Hugh Wynne, an analyst at Bernstein Research, estimates that a 20 percent nationwide reduction in carbon dioxide emissions would increase retail power prices by about 1 cent per kilowatt hour, or 9 percent. At current rates of electricity use, that would add \$9 or so to an average American’s monthly bill. Obama’s plan seeks to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 17 percent from their 2005 level by 2020.

Nick Akins, CEO of American Electric Power, one of the nation’s largest utilities, said in an interview Tuesday that as long as utilities like his are given enough time to transition to a cleaner fleet of power plants, Obama’s plan can be carried out “without a major impact to customers or the economy.”

Life & Style

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—In these hyper-connected, over-shared times dwell two kinds of people: those preoccupied with taking and uploading photos of themselves and those who have never heard of the selfie.

The raunchy, goofy, poignant, sexy or drunken self-portrait has been a common sight since phone camera met social media. Now, nearly a decade since the arm-extended or in-the-mirror photos became a mainstay of MySpace—duck face or otherwise—selfies are a pastime across generations and cultures.

Justin Bieber puts up plenty with his shirt off and Rihanna poses for sultry snaps, but a beaming Hillary Clinton recently took a turn with daughter Chelsea, who tweeted their happy first attempt with the hashtag #ProudDaughter.

Two other famous daughters, Sasha and Malia Obama, selfied at dad's second inauguration, pulling faces in front of a smartphone. And Japanese astronaut Aki Hoshide earned a spot in the Selfie Hall of Fame with a striking, other-worldly shot, arms extended as reflected in his helmet outside the International Space Station last year.

"It just comes so naturally after a point," said Elizabeth Zamora, a 24-year-old marketing account coordinator in Dallas who has taken hundreds of selfies since she got her first iPhone two years ago, with the front-facing camera that has become the selfie gold standard.

"You just take it and you don't even realize it and then you're sharing it with all your friends," she said. "I try not to go crazy."

If we're not taking them, we're certainly looking, regardless of whether we know what they're called. We're lurking on the selfies of our teens, enjoy-



This combo image of six undated images shows self-portraits taken by Nikki Anderson, 19, of Massachusetts. The practice of freezing and sharing our tiniest slices of life in "selfies" has become so popular that the granddaddy of dictionaries, the Oxford, is monitoring the term as a possible addition.

What did Narcissus say to Instagram? Selfie time!

ing the hijinx of co-workers and friends and mooning over celebrities, who have fast learned the marketing value—and scandalous dangers—of capturing their more intimate, unpolished selves.

The practice of freezing and sharing our thinnest slices of life has become so popular that the granddaddy of dictionaries, the Oxford, is monitoring the term selfie as a possible addition. Time magazine included the

selfie in its Top 10 buzzwords of 2012 (at No. 9) and New York magazine's The Cut blog declared in April: "Ugly Is the New Pretty: How Unattractive Selfies Took Over the Internet."

On Instagram alone, there's #selfiesunday, along with related tags where millions of selfies land daily. More than 23 million photos have been uploaded to the app with the tag #selfie and about 70 million photos clog Instagram's #me.

What are we to make of all this navel-gazing (sometimes literally)? Are selfies, by definition, culturally dangerous? Offensive? An indicator of moral decline?

Beverly Hills, Calif., psychiatrist Carole Lieberman sees narcissism with a capital N. "The rise of the selfie is a perfect metaphor for our increasingly narcissistic culture. We're desperately crying out: Look at me!"

But Pamela Rutledge doesn't

see it that way. The director of the nonprofit Media Psychology Research Center, which explores how humans interact with technology, sees the selfie as democratizing the once-snooty practice of self-portraiture, a tradition that long predates Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

She sees some key differences between selfies and self-portraits of yore. Unlike painted portraiture, selfies are easily deletable. And "bad or funny is good in a way that wasn't the case when people had to pay for film to be developed," or for a professional painter, she said.

"Albrecht Durer's self-portraiture is these incredible self-reflections and explorations of technique, and then when Rihanna snaps her picture it's just self-aggrandizement, or it's promotion, so you have a fairly interesting double standard based upon who's taking the self-portrait," said Rutledge, in Boston.

In selfies, we can be famous and in control of our own images and storylines. As for the young, the more authority figures—parents, teachers—dislike them and "declare them a sign of a self-obsessed, narcissistic generation, the more desirable they become," she said.

The word selfie in itself carries multiple connotations, Rutledge observes. "The 'ie' at the end makes selfie a diminutive,

implying some affection and familiarity." From a semantic's perspective, the selfie is a "little self"—a small, friendly bit of the self, she said.

There's a sense of immediacy and temporariness. "Granted, little is really temporary on the Internet, but it is more that by definition. Transient, soon to be upstaged by the next one," Rutledge said.

Self-portraits tagged as 'selfie' first surfaced on Flickr, a photo-sharing site, and on MySpace in 2004, Rutledge said. The earliest reference in UrbanDictionary was to "selfy" in 2005.

In historical terms, elites in Ancient Egypt were fond of self-portraits, Rutledge said. And then there was the mirror, invented in the 15th century and allowing artists like the prolific Durer in Germany to have at it in more meaningful detail.

While the self-involved Narcissus stared at his reflection in a pond in Greek mythology, it was the mirror that "really was the first piece of technology where an artist could see his own image long enough to paint it, other than just painting self-impressions," Rutledge said.

Fast forward to the 1860s and the advent of cameras, launching a new round of selfies, though they took considerable skill and expense.

Leap with us once again to 2010 and the launch of Instagram, and on to 2012, when 86 percent of the U.S. population had a cell phone, bringing on the cheaper selfie as social media and mobile Internet access spread.

"What's most interesting to me is how we're trying to grapple with what it means," Rutledge said. "We know what it means when we see somebody's picture of their kid holding a soccer ball. We're OK with that. And we know what it means to have a portrait in a high school yearbook or of a real estate agent on a business card. We know how to think about all of those things, but we don't know how to think about this mass production of self-reflection."

Is it possible the selfie doesn't mean anything at all?

"In the era of the Kardashians, everyone has become their own paparazzi," mused Rachel Weingarten, a personal-brand consultant in New York.

Another New Yorker, 14-year-old Beatrice Landau, tends to agree. She regularly uploads selfies, from vacation shots on Instagram to fleeting images using Snapchat, a phone app that deletes them after 10 seconds.

"I know selfies are ridiculous, but it's definitely part of our 'teenage culture,'" Beatrice said. "You don't have to have a person with you to take a picture of you, when you can take one yourself."

Diddy hopes to bring music back to TV with Revolt

NEW YORK (AP)—Diddy had been working on developing a TV network for years. When he was almost shut out of performing on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" around the release of a 2010 album, the rapper-producer realized he needed to launch the network sooner rather than later.

"I had to beg to be on ... 'Dancing With the Stars' and it was something to me that wasn't right about that," he said.

Diddy believed there weren't enough outlets for musicians on TV—and that moment drove home the point.

He's launching Revolt TV in the fall.

"There's ESPN for sports, CNN, Fox News for news and the AP. There should be a

brand for music, and now we have that brand that's going to focus on music and not reality shows," he said. "There's been a gaping hole once some of the other channels stopped having focus on music and focused more on reality, and it left a gaping hole for artists and fans of not having a place to go."

The 43-year-old entrepreneur announced last week that Revolt TV had reached a deal to have his network distributed on Time Warner Cable. Comcast Corp. announced a deal with Diddy's network last year.

Sean "Diddy" Combs has produced shows like "Mak-

ing the Band" for MTV, and he's hoping to bring the flavor of what's buzzing on the Internet—viral videos, behind-the-scene music moments and raw interviews—to TV sets. He's "embracing" what's happening online and plans to tap into that audience.

"We want to have partnerships with YouTube and we want to have partnerships with Facebook and Instagram and Spotify and Beats (by Dre)," he said. "We're all in this together."

MTV, which has shifted to reality TV, occasionally plays music videos, and there are channels like MTV Hits and

VH1 Soul that show videos throughout the day. Diddy said Revolt TV will proudly play music videos, but "this is not an MTV 2 (or) 3.0."

"I wanted my MTV and so when I missed it, I didn't want to complain about it, I wanted to do something about it," he said. "They inspired me and helped with the blueprint."

Diddy, whose brand includes movies, fragrances, fashion lines and endorsements, said he's making sure Revolt TV isn't Diddy TV. He said Oprah Winfrey, who launched her OWN network in 2011, warned him of the hardships that would come with owning a network.

"One of the things I did learn from Oprah is that this is a marathon, not a sprint," he said.



Diddy

Israeli wall in ‘World War Z’ sparks questions

NEW YORK (AP)—Brad Pitt’s “World War Z” imagines a world overrun by a zombie pandemic, leading to an unlikely new global power structure. Two of the few countries that have kept the zombies at bay are Israel, which shelters Israelis and Palestinians behind a wall, and North Korea, which has removed the teeth of its citizens to prevent zombie biting.

It’s a curious portrait of geopolitics that’s left some moviegoers scratching their heads. Is a wall of unity for both Jews and Muslims in Jerusalem an ironic commentary on the West Bank barrier being constructed by Israel alongside Palestine? Or a suggestion that a wall—which resembles the Western Wall—can be a positive force in the Middle East?

There’s little time for rumination on such questions in “World War Z” before the next swarm of zombies attacks. Any whiff of foreign policy contemplation is snuffed out by the stampeding undead, who seem about as interested in politics as the average summer moviegoer.

But in their wake, some have questioned just what, exactly, “World War Z,” is saying about Israel.

“Will (foreign moviegoers) conclude that the filmmakers (are) saying that Kim Jong-un and Benjamin Netanyahu are the wisest leaders in the world, except that Kim is a little bit wiser, because he’s uncontaminated by humanitarian sentiments?” wrote Hendrik Hertzberg for The New Yorker. “North Koreans still have a few teeth in their heads, but Israel has already built a wall. Will foreign audiences, or potential audiences, interpret the film’s message to be that the only thing wrong



This publicity image released by Paramount Pictures shows a scene from “World War Z.”

with the existing wall is that it’s not sealed tight enough?”

The Los Angeles Times’ Steven Zeitchik wrote: “In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a wall is a heavily fraught symbol. But here it turns into an instrument of . . . peace?”

Any murkiness is partly the result of the tortured, rewritten path to movie theaters taken by “World War Z,” which opened

last weekend in North America with a higher than expected \$66.4 million at the box office and plans for a sequel.

The film is loosely based on Max Brooks’ 2006 novel “World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War.” Modeled on Studs Terkel’s Pulitzer Prize-winning “The Good War: An Oral History of World War II,” Brooks’ book is a collection of dispatches

from around the globe years after a zombie outbreak.

Pitt’s production company, Plan B, pursued the rights aggressively, winning them for \$1 million over competing bidder Leonardo DiCaprio. But though Pitt was initially attracted to “World War Z” for its provocative hypothesizing of various nations’ handling of a worldwide epidemic, the need for a more linear nar-

rative soon took precedence.

After many rewrites over the course of years, much of the book was whittled away, eventually producing a film (the ending to which was reshot) with only cursory relation to the novel. Whereas the book deals centrally with geopolitical allegory, pieced together from multiple perspectives, the film is limited to the narrow viewpoint of one

United Nations inspector (Pitt) trying to make sense of the catastrophe as its happening.

“It got too dense,” Pitt, also a producer, said in an interview last week. “We got too weighed down on it. We spent a couple years on it. We couldn’t get it into one movie. We had to walk a line between using the film as a Trojan horse for some of that, but these things have to be fun. And we were bored, ourselves.”

In the book, uninfected Jews and Palestinians are quarantined behind a huge wall in Jerusalem. The haven is spoiled not by zombies, but by civil war, which breaks out when Israel’s ultra-orthodox rebel. In the film, the Jerusalem scene (shot in Malta) is the film’s grandest set piece (seen widely in TV ads) where zombies mount the wall like ants.

The use of such regionally sensitive imagery will likely be hotly debated when it opens in Israel on July 11.

Brooks, who’s the son of Mel Brooks and Anne Bancroft, declined to be interviewed for this article. He’s previously distanced himself from the movie. In a video posted by Pennsylvania’s Mansfield University in May, Brooks said the movie is “World War Z” “in name only.” Pitt’s UN inspector isn’t a character in the book, and Brooks reportedly requested that his publisher, Random House, not print new editions of the book with Pitt’s face on the cover.

Mansion once owned by Liberace for sale in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Las Vegas mansion that once belonged to Liberace and ultimately landed in the hands of a bank is now listed for half a million dollars, cash-only.

The nearly 14,939-square-foot mansion, built in 1962 and set on a half-acre lot near the University of Nevada, Las

Vegas, has two bedrooms, 10 bathrooms and several large areas for entertaining.

It also features touches reminiscent of the flamboyant pianist that once lived there, including chandeliers, a mirror bar etched with Liberace’s signature and a room with tile piano keys in the floor.

Liberace bought the home in 1974, according to Clark County property records pulled by the Las Vegas Sun. His foundation sold the house to a married couple—Vance and Jan Turner—in 1989, two years after the performer died of an AIDS-related illness.

In 2006, during the heady

days of southern Nevada real estate, the couple sold the home to Terrance Lee “Dez” Dzvonick for \$3.7 million.

JPMorgan Chase seized the property through foreclosure in February 2010, and Dzvonick sued to get it back, saying the bank had wrongfully foreclosed. The legal tug-of-war ended in December, when U.S. District Judge Gloria M. Na-

varro dismissed the case.

Liberace, whose onstage and offstage extravagance were legendary, became the best-paid entertainer on the planet during his heyday from the 1950s to the 1970s. His career was revisited in the May debut of the HBO film “Behind the Candelabra,” which details his secretive romance with the much-younger Scott Thorson.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending June 24, 2013:

TOP SONGS

1. “Blurred Lines (feat. T.I. & Pharrell),” Robin Thicke
2. “Radioactive,” Imagine Dragons
3. “Get Lucky (feat. Pharrell Williams),” Daft Punk
4. “Treasure,” Bruno Mars
5. “We Can’t Stop,” Miley Cyrus
6. “Cruise (Remix) (feat. Nelly),” Florida Georgia Line
7. “Can’t Hold Us (feat. Ray Dalton),” Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
8. “My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark (Light Em Up),” Fall Out Boy
9. “Counting Stars,” OneRepublic
10. “I Want Crazy,” Hunter Hayes

TOP ALBUMS

1. “Yeezus,” Kanye West
2. “Born Sinner,” J Cole
3. “Watching Movies With the Sound Off,” Mac Miller
4. “Talk a Good Game,” Kelly

- Rowland
5. “Random Access Memories,” Daft Punk
6. “The 20/20 Experience,” Justin Timberlake
7. “The Complete Season 4 Collection (The Voice Performance),” Danielle Bradbery
8. “Native,” OneRepublic
9. “Night Visions,” Imagine Dragons
10. “Here’s to the Good Times,” Florida Georgia Line

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending June 24, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
2. Where’s My Mickey? (Disney)
3. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
4. Heads Up! (Warner Bros.)
5. Facetune (Lightricks Ltd.)
6. Icebreaker: A Viking Voyage (Rovio Stars Ltd.)
7. SpongeBob Moves In (Nickelodeon)
8. AfterLight (Simon Filip)

9. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
10. Infinity Blade II (Chair Entertainment Group LLC)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. Despicable Me: Minion Rush (Gameloft)
2. Candy Crush Saga, (King.com Limited)
3. Escape If You Can (Kaarel Kirsi-puu)
4. Vine (Vine Labs Inc.)
5. What The Riddle? (Rainy Day App)
6. Instagram (Burbn Inc)
7. Snapchat (Snapchat Inc.)
8. Dumb Ways to Die (Metro Trains Melbourne Pty Ltd.)
9. YouTube (Google Inc.)
10. Hair Salon - Fun Kids Games (George CL)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Toca Builders (Toca Boca AB)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. SpongeBob Moves In (Nickelodeon)
4. Where’s My Mickey? XL (Disney)
5. Plants vs. Zombies HD (Pop-

- Cap)
6. Doc McStuffins: Time For Your Check Up! (Disney)
7. Icebreaker: A Viking Voyage (Rovio Stars Ltd.)
8. XCOM: Enemy Unknown (2K Games)
9. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
10. Survivalcraft (Igor Kalicinski)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. Despicable Me: Minion Rush (Gameloft)
2. Candy Crush Saga, (King.com Limited)
3. Hair Salon - Fun Kids Games (George CL)
4. Prom Night Makeover (Ninjabish Studios)
5. Monsters University: Catch Archie (Disney)
6. Toca Hair Salon 2 (Toca Boca AB)
7. YouTube (Google Inc.)
8. Prom Salon (Libii Tech Limited)
9. Pancake Maker! (Ninjabish Studios)
10. Dumb Ways to Die (Metro Trains Melbourne Pty Ltd.)

The top 10 books on Apple’s iBookstore for the week ending June 24, 2013:

TOP BOOKS

1. “Inferno,” by Dan Brown (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
2. “Entwined with You,” by Sylvia Day (Penguin Group US)
3. “And the Mountains Echoed,” by Khaled Hosseini (Penguin Group US)
4. “World War Z,” by Max Brooks (Crown Publishing Group)
5. “The Heist,” by Janet Evanovich & Lee Goldberg (Random House Publishing Group)
6. “Revenge Wears Prada,” by Lauren Weisberger (Simon & Schuster)
7. “This Man,” by Jodi Malpas (Grand Central Publishing)
8. “Bad Monkey,” by Carl Hiaasen (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
9. “Fifty Shades of Grey,” by E. L. James (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
10. “Gone Girl,” by Gillian Flynn (Crown Publishing Group)

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700 PM

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY [CC] (G)

(100 PM 400 PM)

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY 3D [CC] (G)

(130 PM 430 PM) 710 PM

WORLD WAR Z [CC] (PG-13)

(415 PM)

WORLD WAR Z 3D [CC] (PG-13)

(115 PM) 720 PM

MAN OF STEEL [CC] (PG-13)

(345 PM)

MAN OF STEEL 3D [CC] (PG-13)

(1230 PM) 700 PM

THIS IS THE END [CC] (R)

(215 PM 445 PM) 730 PM

NOW YOU SEE ME [CC] (PG-13)

(120 PM 410 PM) 715 PM

FAST & FURIOUS 6 [CC] (PG-13)

(125 PM 425 PM) 725 PM

www.REGmovies.com

Chris Brown charged with misdemeanor hit-and-run

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles city attorney's office has charged singer Chris Brown with misdemeanor hit-and-run and driving without a valid license.

City attorney spokesman

Frank Mateljan says the charges filed Tuesday involve a minor accident on May 21 in the San Fernando Valley.

If convicted, Brown would face up to one year in jail.

Arraignment is scheduled for

July 15 at the Van Nuys courthouse, but an attorney can appear on Brown's behalf.

Mateljan says the county district attorney's office will be notified of the charges and it will be up to that office and the

courts to determine if the case will have any effect on Brown's felony probation in the 2009 beating of singer Rihanna.

A call seeking comment from a Brown representative was not immediately returned Tuesday.

Tatum posts his baby's photo to stop paparazzi

NEW YORK (AP)—Rather than go the route of some celebrity parents, Channing Tatum and his wife Jenna decided to release their newborn daughter's baby picture.

According to Tatum, the choice was simple: be hounded by paparazzi, or control the release of the picture. He chose the latter and posted a family photo on his official Facebook page.

While promoting his new ac-

tion film, "White House Down," with Jamie Foxx, the 33-year-old actor said it was important to take "stalking photographers" out of the equation.

"We have paparazzi out in front of everything trying to get the first picture," he said. "And we didn't want to sell it."

Tatum added: "We just wanted to let the fans and whoever wanted to see it, and that's it."



This Feb. 24, 2013 file photo shows Channing Tatum, left, and Jenna Dewan-Tatum at the 2013 Vanity Fair Oscars Viewing and After Party at the Sunset Plaza Hotel in West Hollywood, Calif.

Judge taking no action in Jackson guardianship

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge said Tuesday that he will make no changes to the guardianship of Michael Jackson's three children after receiving an investigator's report on their well-being and meeting with attorneys for their caretakers.

Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff ordered the inquiry after 15-year-old Paris Jackson was hospitalized on June 5. Authorities reported she took Motrin pills and cut her arm with a kitchen knife.

The judge ordered an investigator to interview Jackson's children and report back to him.

Beckloff also met with attorneys for the children's guardians, grandmother Katherine Jackson and their adult cousin TJ Jackson.

"I'm taking no further action," Beckloff told attorneys for Jackson's estate.

The decision was announced during a hearing at which Howard Weitzman, an attorney for the estate, raised the issue of

potential harm to the singer's daughter that might come with unsealing "salacious details" of a choreographer's recent molestation allegations against the pop superstar.

Beckloff told attorneys he will consider which portions of Wade Robson's complaint to unseal and inform attorneys of his decision. Robson claims the acts occurred when he was a child.

Another hearing will be held to determine if Robson can pursue that allegation.

Perry Sanders Jr., an attorney for Katherine Jackson, has said Paris Jackson is physically fine and receiving proper medical attention. He has not provided further updates on her condition.

"In light of all current circumstances and the special investigator's report, we agreed with the judge that appropriate decisions are being made regarding care of all three children, and no further action is required," Sanders wrote in a statement Tuesday.

Mendes' Chocolate Factory has gala London opening

LONDON (AP)—Oscar-winning director Sam Mendes has followed "Skyfall" with a sky's-the-limit return to the stage—a technically spectacular musical version of "Charlie And The Chocolate Factory."

The Mendes-directed musical, based on Roald Dahl's much-loved—and twice film-adapted—children's book, got an enthusiastic reception from its opening-night audience Tuesday at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

Early reviews were also positive, with critics in the Guardian, Independent and Daily Mirror newspapers and Time Out magazine all awarding "Charlie" four out of five stars.

The show features new songs by "Hairspray" duo Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, along with extravagant sets and costumes by Mark Thompson designed to bring to life the magical confectionary factory run by the flamboyant yet secretive Willy Wonka.

Thompson draws on a bag of tricks that ranges from animation to shadow projections, and fans of the book will find

most of its flights of visual fantasy recreated onstage, from the factory's chocolate waterfall to Wonka's great glass elevator.

Playwright David Greig has adapted Dahl's story of poor but imaginative Charlie Bucket, who finds a golden ticket that allows him a tour of Wonka's top-secret facility—alongside the far less wholesome children Augustus Gloop, Violet Beauregarde, Mike Teavee and Veruca Salt.

Douglas Hodge, one of Britain's leading musical-theater performers, stars as a charming and unsettling Willy Wonka, while Nigel Planer, a former star of 1980s comedy "The Young Ones," is the cast's other big name as Charlie's Grandpa Joe.

Tuesday's premiere was a red-carpet affair, attended by a host of British celebs as well as actresses Uma Thurman and Sarah Jessica Parker, who arrived with her husband Matthew Broderick and their son, James.

Producers are hoping "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"—which is booking until May 2014—will be a stage hit to match Mendes' screen James Bond blockbuster.



Mendes

RV parked in driveway keeps boys busy, grandma worried

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband has moved our motor home into our driveway and lets our 8-year-old grandson and the neighborhood boys play inside without supervision. I am furious about it because they can—and often do—mess up a whole lot of stuff, and worse, it leaves us open for a lawsuit if anyone gets hurt!

I can't convince him that it's not OK to let the boys play inside. Actually, I think he knows it, but our grandson only has to whine or cry and my husband folds. Can you help me get through to him?

CONCERNED GRANDMA IN TEXAS

DEAR CONCERNED GRANDMA: I probably can't do much better than you, but I'm willing to bet that your family lawyer and your insurance agent can. Notify them about what's going on, and let them tell your husband what the consequences will be if anything unforeseen should happen.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have started working at a cafe. My best friend works there, and she helped me get the job. I work with her often, and when I ask questions, she keeps doing stuff for me and won't let me learn. I have to learn by doing.

When I go home, I feel like I'm not good at it, and I start missing my co-workers from my old job. I miss my old work because we had so much fun and always goofed around.

I don't know how to enjoy my new job, and I get all quiet around my friend because she obviously realizes when I'm not doing something right. How do I keep up a good attitude or tell her she's driving me crazy?

SAD GIRL IN UTAH

DEAR SAD GIRL: A way to change your attitude would be to stop asking your friend to coach you. People have different learning styles. Obviously, yours is not the same as your friend's. The person who should be teaching you is your boss. Because new routines take practice to master, have him or her show you the ropes so you can mirror what that person is doing.

■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: After I printed the letter from "Can't Believe It Down South" (May 13), about the grandfather who is insisting that his granddaughter's Greek fiance change his last name "because it is too long and impossible to pronounce," I loved what you had to say. Some of your comments made me laugh, so I'm sharing them with you:

DEAR ABBY: I saw the letter from "Can't Believe It," and I have just the response for him:

"Dear Grandpa: Don't worry. With the wedding eight weeks away, you will have plenty of time to learn to say 'Mrs. Papa-georgiou.'"

"By the way, we have decided on the reception menu: spanakotyropita, tsipouradika and kolokythoanthoi, all washed down with ouzomezedhes."

GET YOUR OWN NAME

DEAR ABBY: Many years ago, my cousin was a rabid Burt Reynolds fan. Her friend, a flight attendant, was on the same plane as Burt, so she asked him for an autographed photo for my cousin. Burt spelled her name wrong, and when my cousin saw it, she said, "Oh, well. I don't mind changing the spelling for HIM!"

"ABBDICT" IN GERMANY

DEAR ABBY: Dang! That granddad sure is a pain in the Acropolis.

GENE OF AQUITAINE

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Broadway marquees to dim to honor James Gandolfini

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway theaters will dim their marquee lights Wednesday night in memory of James Gandolfini, "The Sopranos" star who earned a Tony Award nomination in 2009. The Broadway League said Tuesday the lights will be dimmed for one minute at exactly 8 p.m. EDT. The 51-year-old actor died Wednesday in Rome. A funeral will be held Thursday at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City. Gandolfini received a Tony nomination for his role in the award-winning "God of Carnage." He also appeared on Broadway in "On the Waterfront" in 1995 and "A Streetcar Named Desire" in 1992. Said Charlotte St. Martin, executive director of the League: "Gandolfini was a consummate actor who brought individuality to each role and inspired a true connection with the audience."

Schwarzenegger opening Algeria office for his NGO

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—Arnold Schwarzenegger is opening an office in Algeria of his environmental initiative R20 in a bid to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions there and throughout the Mediterranean. Schwarzenegger, who is in Algeria for three days, signed an accord Tuesday with Environment Minister Amara Benyounes to open an office of his non-governmental organization in the western city of Oran. He told reporters Algeria can help the region move toward environmental awareness. The former California governor and film star, referring to his movie "Terminator," said that "in real life, it's equally important that I play the Terminator and end environmental problems." R20, founded in 2010, focuses on the role of states, regions and cities in achieving U.N. environmental goals.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

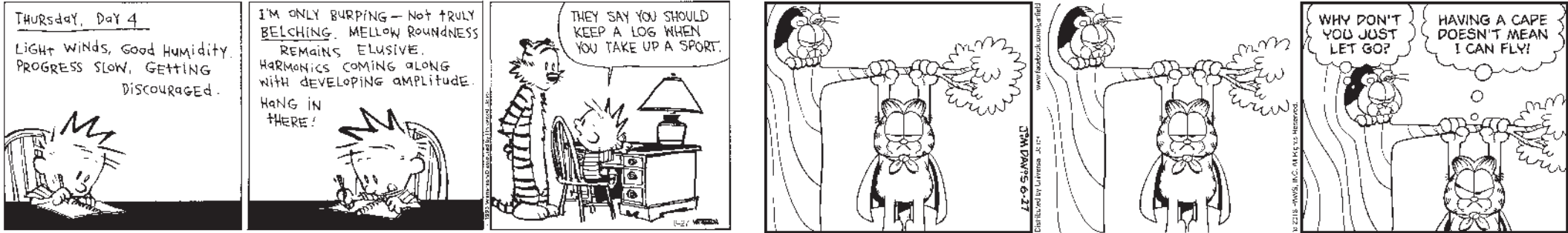
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

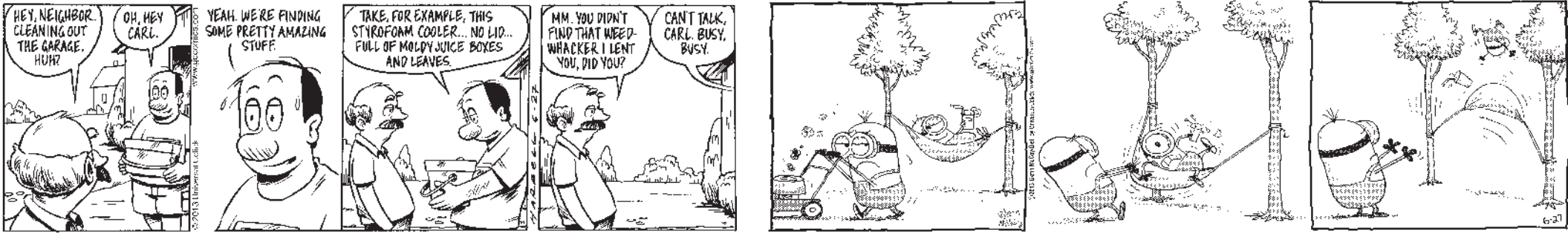


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Porter's burdens

5 Before

8 Dull sound of impact

12 Enticement

13 Blend

14 Abundant

15 Opera show-stopper

16 U.K. broadcaster

17 Black, in verse

18 Fight

20 Like a lot

22 Solid ground

26 Entire

29 Smack

30 Zilch

31 Bees' home

32 Parsons or Gaffigan

33 Slangy negative

34 — out a living

35 One of the Brady Bunch

DOWN

1 Spill

37 Brownish orange

40 Warmonger

41 Barber-shop tools

45 First victim

47 Luau bowlful

49 "American —"

50 Ring out

51 Barn bird

52 Alaskan metropolis

53 Vortex

54 —

55 Get larger

19 Appomattox surrenderer

21 Frequently

23 Serengeti beast

24 Chinese dynasty

25 Choir member

26 Sharpen bit

27 Raise

28 Above

32 Lotto win

33 Incredible

35 Mandible

36 Call — day

38 Make a comeback

39 Warble

42 Bloodhound's clue

43 Quarterback

44 Dispatched

45 Mimic

46 Foundation

48 Didn't pay yet

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ed Westwick, 26; Drake Bell, 27; Tobey Maguire, 38; J.J. Abrams, 47

Happy Birthday: Put more thought into what you can do to improve your personal and financial life this year. Scaling down or investing in something you feel will increase your earning potential or lifestyle should be your goal. Love is on the rise, and enhancing your personal life emotionally, physically and financially will result in peace of mind. Your numbers are 6, 15, 21, 23, 34, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Express your concern, but don't dictate what you want done. You will face opposition and must compromise in order to get the best results. A contract, settlement or even a change of residence are all possibilities. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give whatever you want to do your very best shot. Opportunity will present itself if you make a good impression. Your love life appears to be heading in a positive direction. Connecting with an old friend will open up new prospects. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Express what you want carefully. You are likely to be misinterpreted or send the wrong signal. It's important to put situations in perspective before you share your thoughts. Making a last-minute change will save you from making a mistake. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Learn to accept what you cannot stop or change. Put your heart into any job or project you take on, and you will surpass your expectations. A financial upswing will help boost your confidence. Love is highlighted. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Embrace change and be prepared to engage in whatever it takes to get what you want. Keeping a low profile will allow you to accomplish more without interference. Plan a trip that favors education, information or professional advancement. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Contributions you make will increase your popularity. Engaging in activities or groups that promise to improve causes you believe in will bring you enjoyment. New partnerships will benefit you personally and professionally. Avoid impulsive or unpredictable people or financial ventures. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will face plenty of do-gooders trying to convince you of one thing or another. Look at what you are trying to accomplish and keep your game plan simple. Slow but steady growth is your best bet. Don't mix business with pleasure. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your mind wander and look for solutions that go with the current economic climate and you will find a way to increase your earning power and improve your prospects for the future. Embrace change that encourages you to use your skills diversely. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Proceed with caution. You don't want to be blamed for meddling or exaggerating the truth. Stick to simple and moderate expenditures and put more effort into building your own resources instead of investing in someone else. Avoid impulsive action. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look at the big picture but don't try to do everything

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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at once or on your own. Size up your situation and gauge how long and what it will take to accomplish your goals. Look for solid partnerships and reliable contributors. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Prepare to take action. Prove your potential first and you will get others to back you. A chance to engage in a challenge or to travel to a location or project that favors your skill set will help you advance. Love is highlighted. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Network and socialize and you will learn something new that will help you attract friendships and partnerships. Let your creative imagination lead the way and you will dazzle those you meet with your plans. Help is on the way, and love is on the rise. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are determined, proud and expressive but can also be unreasonable.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/27

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORDS.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

A DECADENT DAY Solution: 4 letters

C B F D M D I P S L T A E R T
H R R O O A M O U S S E Z M A
E O O E I N C X G E Y I A I R
E W S Q G E U A A N R O L L T
S N T U U R G T R J U H G K S
E I I I Y E U R Y O P C Y B Y
C E N C C B M B A Y O A D A T
A A G H R E E B M S N N N K N
K C V E T I C E O A F T A E A
E A A I G O T R C U H F C R S
V D E N A S O E E G C H L U S
A E E T A R P M I A A H P I
R T W T S P I L S I M P E M O
C I T O R T E C R E A M S A R
N B R I E D E S H A K E S P C

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Bake, Beignet, Bite, Bread, Brie, Brownie, Canapes, Candy, Caviar, Cheesecake, Crave, Creams, Croissant, Croquebouché, Delight, Dips, Donut, Eclairs, Enjoy, Foie Gras, Frosting, Glaze, Hamburger, Ice Cream, Luxury, Macaroon, Milk, Mousse, Nacho, Pamper, Pecan, Pies, Puffs, Quiche, Shakes, Silky, Smooth, Steak, Sugary, Syrup, Tarts, Taste, Torte, Treat

Yesterday's Answer: Tender Years

The NEW Treasury 15 can be purchased by calling toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaluck.com. (Contains 130 puzzles, with 31 20x20 puzzles.)

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	3	8	4	1	2	9	6	7
7	2	4	3	6	9	1	5	8
9	1	6	8	7	5	4	3	2
2	7	3	9	8	6	5	4	1
1	6	5	2	4	3	8	7	9
8	4	9	7	5	1	6	2	3
3	8	7	6	9	4	2	1	5
4	5	2	1	3	8	7	9	6
6	9	1	5	2	7	3	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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HILL LAW OFFICES
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Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

JENETH S. SANTIAGO } **FCD DI CIVIL**
Petitioner, } **ACTION**
versus } **NO. 13-0054**
JOSE FRANCISCO } **SUMMONS**
A. SANTIAGO, }
Respondent. }

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, guma' Hustisaa, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 1st day of February, 2013.

/s/Roxanne M. Weaver
Deputy Clerk II

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: **Farmer** (2 positions). Salary: \$350 to \$400 per month with housing, utilities, food allowance, ground transportation, and workers' compensation insurance provided. Five years experience in fruit, vegetable, and livestock farming required. Must be able to operate farm equipment & machinery.

All applicants must be of good health, good moral character, and must agree to a drug test. High school graduate. Must be able to read, speak and write basic English. Interested applicants must submit their bio-data, resume, police clearance, and other supporting documents to the Saipan Farm & Garden via email at ccsspn@yahoo.com or via fax at 670-233-7342 or send to P.O. Box 503771, Saipan, MP96950. Closing date: July 8, 2013.

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Back on court, Williams stretches winning streak



LONDON (AP)—After a week filled by a headline-grabbing, off-court

tiff with Maria Sharapova and a series of apologies stemming from a magazine profile, Serena Williams got back to doing what she does best.

Better than anyone in the world right now, really.

Extending her winning streak to 32 matches, the longest single-season run on the women's tour since 2000, Williams began her bid for a sixth Wimbledon championship and 17th Grand Slam title overall with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over 92nd-ranked Mandy Minella of Luxembourg on Tuesday.

"You can call her pretty much unbeatable," Minella said. "She's playing better than ever. ... Every time she steps on court, you can see why."

And yet Williams, the defending champion at the All England Club, and Patrick Mouratoglou, the French coach who's been helping her during the current 75-3 stretch that dates to the start of Wimbledon last year, both gave this assessment: There are areas of her game that could use some fine-tuning.

"After today, there's so many ways that I can improve," the No. 1-ranked and No. 1-seeded Williams said, "and that I'm going to need to improve if I want to be in the second week of this tournament."

Really? How about some examples?

"Come on," Williams replied, tilting her head and smiling.

Here was Mouratoglou's take after watching Williams win her first 17 service points and compile a 25-5 edge in total winners on Centre Court: "I mean, of



Serena Williams of the United States returns the ball to Mandy Minella of Luxembourg during their women's first round singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

course, not everything is perfect yet. It's interesting to see what we need to work on for the (coming) days."

They also agreed that she did not have too hard a time setting aside the events of the previous seven days, which included a lot of saying "I'm sorry"—face-to-face with Sharapova, at a news conference, in two separate statements posted on the web—over things Williams was quoted as saying in a Rolling Stone story. Williams made a negative reference in a phone conversation to a top-five player's love life (the piece's author surmised that was about Sharapova) and an off-the-cuff remark about a widely publicized rape case in the U.S. that was perceived by some as criticizing the victim.

"It hasn't been a distraction," Williams insisted. "I'm just here to focus on the tennis."

All in all, by easily winning her first match since winning the French Open on June 8, she helped restore order at Wimbledon 24 hours after a chaotic Day 1 that included the only first-round Grand Slam loss of 12-time major champion Rafael Nadal's career and a scary-looking, knee-twisting tumble by two-time Australian Open winner Victoria Azarenka during her win.

The highest-seeded player to depart Tuesday was No. 10 Maria Kirilenko, beaten 6-3, 6-4 by teenager Laura Robson, the first British woman to beat a top-10 player at Wimbledon in 15 years. Of the 10 local players who entered the tournament, Robson and reigning U.S. Open champion Andy Murray, last year's runner-up at the All England Club, are the only two left.

"It's hard for all the British

players to come in here and, you know, lose first round," said Robson, who beat Kim Clijsters at the 2012 U.S. Open in the last match of the four-time major champion's career, "because you just feel extra disappointed."

Other women winning easily included No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska, the 2012 runner-up to Williams; 2011 French Open champion Li Na; and No. 7 Angelique Kerber, who eliminated Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the U.S. 6-3, 6-4.

Nadal's straight-set loss to 135th-ranked Steve Darcis was still a main topic of conversation, and top-seeded Novak Djokovic called it a reminder that "you cannot take anything or anybody for granted."

"To be honest, I was expecting him to be a bit rusty on the court," Djokovic said. "In the

opening rounds, obviously, it's very dangerous for top players who haven't been playing on grass. ... On the other side of the net is somebody that is lower ranked, he has nothing to lose, so he's going for his shots."

As Djokovic dispatched 34th-ranked Florian Mayer of Germany 6-3, 7-5, 6-4, the only real hitch was when he slipped to the Centre Court grass. No. 4 David Ferrer, who reached his first Grand Slam final at the French Open but lost to Nadal, took two falls and said he felt a "little bit of pain" in his left ankle during a 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory over 101st-ranked Martin Alund of Argentina.

Sam Querrey, an American seeded 21st, lost 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3), 3-6, 2-6, 6-3 to 59th-ranked Australian Bernard Tomic in a match most noteworthy for what was said afterward.

Tomic ripped the ATP for barring his father, who is also his coach, from attending tournaments for 12 months because of pending assault charges and said he'll ask Wimbledon to let Dad attend his next match. Querrey, meanwhile, was miffed that Tomic got a chance to collect himself while being checked by trainers after saying he felt lightheaded in the fourth set.

"I knew he was kind of dizzy, but let's go; it's a physical game," Querrey said. "That's part of it. If you're dizzy or hurt, you've got to play through it. You can't just take breaks. That's not why I lost. But I felt I had some momentum there and that leveled the playing field for the fifth set."

It's been difficult for any opponent to things close against Williams lately, even if she claimed Tuesday, "I never feel invincible."

Her practice-makes-perfect pledge might give future opponents pause, starting with Caroline Garcia, who will face Williams in the second round for the second Grand Slam tournament in a row. After losing to Williams 6-1, 6-2 at the French Open last month, Garcia made these observations: "I need to work on my game to pose more problems for her next time" and "She hits hard."

You don't say.

Dealing with serves that came in at up to 121 mph (195 kph) - that readout on the speed clock prompted murmuring among impressed spectators - Minella managed to put only half of her returns in play.

"When I stood right in front of her, I looked at her and not at the ball at the beginning. Because it's just unreal; because I've never played against this type of player. It's a lot of stuff you have to deal with," Minella said.

"The strength and the heavy spin of her serve is definitely better than anyone else, I would say," Minella added. "It is different from what I've seen. But it's also because it's too good. ... Many other players wouldn't reach the ball today."

Still, for a brief moment, Minella appeared to be getting into the match. A double-fault by Williams handed over a break that gave Minella a 2-0 lead in the second set. Serving at 40-30 in the next game, Minella was a point from a 3-0 edge.

That's when Williams got her act together, producing a cross-court backhand winner to get to deuce while taking 15 of 18 points to go ahead 4-2.

"In these moments," Minella observed, "she can raise her level."

Clippers finalize Doc Rivers' move from Boston



LOS ANGELES (AP)—After weeks of negotiations and intrigue, Doc Rivers has officially left the Boston Celtics for the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rivers will be introduced as the Clippers' new coach and senior vice president of basketball operations at a news conference Wednesday at their Playa Vista training complex, capping a lengthy process by completing a rare trade involving a championship-winning coach.

The Clippers and Celtics finalized the move Tuesday when the NBA approved the deal. Boston will get an unprotected first-round pick in 2015 from the Clippers for Rivers, who went 416-305 and won the 2008 NBA title during nine seasons with the Celtics.

Boston's front office mostly had warm words for Rivers after he took off for his exciting new team on the West Coast, apparently not eager to stick

around for the aging Celtics' rebuilding process.

"We don't have a championship without Doc Rivers coaching," said Danny Ainge, the Celtics' president of basketball operations. "He did an unbelievable job. He has a long history of great success with us in the last nine years, and we wish him the best in Los Angeles."

Rivers is likely to be the NBA's highest-paid coach with the deal, and he'll also have a prominent role in the Clippers' front office with his additional title.

Clippers owner Donald Sterling will expect impressive results for such an investment, but his long-suffering franchise has never been in better shape on the court—providing Los Angeles re-signs Chris Paul, who is eligible for a five-year contract worth nearly \$108 million in July. Paul is widely expected to stick with the Clippers, and Rivers' arrival might cinch the deal.

With Boston likely to spend

the next few years revamping, Rivers seized the chance to take over one of the league's most compelling young teams. He was eagerly pursued by the Clippers, who are coming off the best regular season in franchise history with a roster built around Blake Griffin and Paul.

"He felt like it was time for a change," Ainge said. "He felt like we all needed a change. That was his rationalization or justification for going to the Clippers, that this was better for everybody. I don't think there should be any resentment. I know how Boston fans are. This may be a win-win for everybody."

The 51-year-old Rivers replaces Vinny Del Negro, who wasn't re-signed after the Clippers won a franchise-record 56 games and their first Pacific Division title last season. Los Angeles' first-round playoff loss to Memphis likely cost Del Negro, who went 128-102 over three years and became the only Clippers coach to post consecutive winning seasons in 35 years.

Rivers' new deal is expected to be similar to the three years and \$21 million that remained on his contract with the Celtics. Boston was knocked out of the first round of the playoffs by New York last month, and Rivers gradually became more interested in the Clippers' vacancy than the Celtics' rebuilding process.

The negotiations for Rivers proceeded deliberately and abruptly over the past two weeks, with several potential moves discussed by the franchises. Ainge would have welcomed Rivers back to the Boston bench, but Rivers apparently saw the Clippers as a golden opportunity.

"Sometimes you've got to let your good people go to pursue what they need to pursue to make themselves happy," Celtics President Rich Gotham said. "While it's tough to see Doc go, I think we feel good about what he did here. We will be lucky to find as good a coach as Doc was."

Los Angeles also spoke to Boston about acquiring star forward Kevin Garnett in another element of the trade involving Rivers, but NBA Commissioner David Stern won't allow teams to trade active players for a coach.

Garnett and Southern California native Paul Pierce won't be reuniting with Rivers in Los Angeles any time soon: Ainge said the NBA has forbidden player trades between the two teams for the rest of the year, and both aging stars are under contract for next season. Garnett has discussed the possibility of retirement with two years and over \$23.5 million left on his deal, while Pierce is due to make \$15.3 million next season.

Rivers played one season for the Clippers in 1991-92 during his 13-year NBA career, and they made the playoffs that season for the first time since the former Buffalo Braves moved to the West Coast in 1978. Los Angeles has made only five playoff appearances and won just two

rounds since that season.

But the Clippers are coming off the best two-season stretch in club history, and Rivers' arrival further alters the franchise's decades-long reputation.

Rivers will be an intriguing match with the high-flying Clippers and their Lob City acrobatics, but his coaching pedigree and leadership skills will provide him with immediate credibility in his new locker room.

Rivers' Boston teams played at a more deliberate pace than last season's Clippers often used last season, but the veteran coach is likely to adapt his offensive plans to fit the Clippers' talent. Rivers' impact on Los Angeles could be felt most on defense, where the Clippers often struggled last season despite their lofty record.

After his playing career ended in 1996, Rivers went into broadcasting before serving as the Orlando Magic's head coach for just over four seasons from 1999-2003, going 171-168 and winning an NBA coach of the year award. He is one of four active NBA coaches who have won a championship.

Suzuki lifts Yankees over Texas with HR in 9th



NEW YORK
(AP) —

Ichiro Suzuki homered off Tanner Schepers with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting the New York Yankees to a 4-3 victory over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday.

Suzuki's drive to right-center was the Yankees' fourth home run of the game, three coming off Japanese ace Yu Darvish, and it helped New York improve to 4-3 on a homestand that ends after two more games against the Rangers.

Travis Hafner, Brett Gardner and Jayson Nix each homered off Darvish, who hasn't won in seven starts. Leonys Martin connected twice off Yankees starter Hiroki Kuroda.

Mariano Rivera (1-1) worked a scoreless ninth for New York, which ended the Rangers' five-game winning streak.

Schepers (5-1) pitched a perfect eighth before being touched up by Suzuki in New York's first walk-off win this year.



New York Yankees Ichiro Suzuki watches his walk-off solo home run against the Texas Rangers in the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, June 25, 2013, in New York.

Orioles 6, Indians 3

In Baltimore, Chris Davis and Alexi Casilla homered in a five-run seventh inning as Baltimore beat Cleveland to end a four-game losing streak.

Davis tied the game at 3 with his major league-leading 28th home run, a two-run shot, and Casilla added a three-run drive. Both homers were off Justin Masterson (9-6), who took a three-hitter into the seventh.

Chris Tillman (9-2) gave up three runs, four hits and four walks in seven innings to win his fifth straight start. The right-hander is 6-0 in seven starts since May 19.

Jim Johnson pitched the ninth for his 27th save.

Jason Kipnis homered, walked twice and singled for the Indians, who were seeking a fourth straight road victory for the first time since April 2012.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Moore overcame control problems to allow one run in six innings as Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

Moore (10-3) tied career highs with six walks and 11 strikeouts en route to his 10th win this season and second straight after a three-game skid. The left-hander gave up four hits.

Tampa Bay rookie Wil Myers had an RBI single during a three-run fourth. He has eight RBIs in nine games since being called up on June 18 from Triple-A Durham.

Mark Buehrle (4-5) gave up four runs, eight hits and four walks in five innings for the Blue Jays, who have lost two in a row since winning 11 straight.

Braves 4, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Kris Medlen outpitched the Royals' Ervin Santana over seven innings and Jason Heyward hit a

go-ahead homer as the Atlanta bullpen hung on for a victory in the team's first visit to Kansas City.

Medlen (5-7) limited the Royals to a run in the first and Eric Hosmer's two-run homer in the fifth while striking out five. He turned the game over to Jordan Walden, who survived a lead-off walk in the eighth inning to get the game into the hands of Craig Kimbrel, who earned his 22nd save.

Heyward drove in a pair of runs with a double in the fifth, and then broke open a tied game with his solo shot off Tim Lincecum (2-2) with one out in the seventh inning.

Angels 14, Tigers 8

In Detroit, Albert Pujols doubled, singled, scored a run and drove one in—all in an eight-run fifth inning—as the Los Angeles Angels routed Detroit again.

The Angels have won seven straight against Detroit, by a combined score of 48-17. C.J. Wilson (7-5) allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings for Los Angeles.

Rick Porcello (4-5) gave up seven runs and 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings. The Angels scored nine runs off him in two-thirds of an inning in April. This start looked better at first, but Los Angeles broke through in the fifth.

Cardinals 13, Astros 5

In Houston, Allen Craig homered and had a season-high four hits with three RBIs, and Carlos Beltran and David Freese both added a homer as St. Louis got back on track by rolling over Houston.

The Cardinals managed just seven runs combined in a three-game sweep by the Texas Rangers, the first time they were swept this season. On Tuesday, they piled up the same number of runs in the fourth inning

alone, powered by a three-run triple by Matt Carpenter.

Jake Westbrook (4-2) didn't allow a hit until the sixth inning and yielded four hits and four runs in six innings in his third start since coming off the disabled list.

White Sox 5, Mets 4

In Chicago, Alexei Ramirez singled in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth after Chicago committed a costly error in the top half of the inning, and Chris Sale struck out 13 batters in eight innings to lead the White Sox over the New York Mets.

The Mets scored the tying run with two outs in the ninth on a defensive miscue.

Ramirez's winning hit came with runners on the corners. Jeff Keppinger singled and Beckham reached on a fielding error by reliever LaTroy Hawkins (2-1). Keppinger moved to third when the Mets were unable to turn a double play.

Addison Reed (3-0) got the victory after blowing his third save.

Red Sox 11, Rockies 4

In Boston, Dustin Pedroia drove in four runs and had three of Boston's season-high 20 hits, and Ryan Dempster took advantage of an early cushion that kept getting bigger for the Red Sox in a rout of Colorado.

Mike Napoli added two RBIs, and Jacoby Ellsbury, Daniel Nava and Jose Iglesias joined Pedroia with three hits apiece as the Red Sox gave Dempster an abundance of offense after scoring just two runs in his previous two starts combined.

Dempster (5-8) allowed two runs and six hits over six innings, leaving with an 8-2 lead and earning his first victory since June 9.

The Red Sox had at least

three hits in every inning until the fifth. It was also the first inning Boston failed to score after roughing up Juan Nicasio (4-4) early.

Athletics 7, Reds 3

In Oakland, Calif., Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer, freshly promoted Stephen Vogt hit a sacrifice fly for his first major league RBI, and Oakland topped Cincinnati.

Josh Reddick had an RBI double, Yoenis Cespedes added an RBI single, and Brandon Moss also hit a sacrifice fly as the A's returned from the road to a cleaned-up Coliseum for an eight-game homestand.

Pat Neshek (2-1) pitched one inning for the win, his 14th scoreless appearance in his last 15.

Joey Votto hit his 14th homer, and Cincinnati's Derrick Robinson had a career-high four hits.

Oakland knocked out Bronson Arroyo (6-6) after a season-low four innings — his shortest start since three innings last July 16 against Arizona at home. The A's won for only the fourth time in 11 games.

Pirates 9, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Starling Marte hit two of Pittsburgh's five home runs, and Jeff Locke pitched seven sharp innings to lead the Pirates past Seattle.

Marte opened the game with a triple and hit solo shots in the second and eighth for the first multihomer game of his career. Locke (7-1) limited Seattle to two runs and four hits, leaving him tied for second in the National League with a 2.06 ERA.

Brandon Inge had a three-run shot in the second inning, his first home run since Aug. 1 with Oakland against Tampa Bay. Russell Martin and Gaby Sanchez also went deep for the Pirates in their first five-homer

game since July 22, 2009, against Milwaukee.

It was the second time this season the Mariners have allowed five long balls. Houston connected five times on April 9.

Nationals 7, Diamondbacks 5

In Washington, Adam LaRoche hit a three-run homer and Gio Gonzalez won for the first time since May 5 as the Washington Nationals defeated the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Jayson Werth added a double, RBI-single and two walks for Washington, which led 6-0 after five innings and snapped a two-game skid.

Gonzalez (4-3) went 6 1-3 innings, giving up two runs and nine hits. He struck out four and walked one. Rafael Soriano allowed an RBI single to Miguel Montero in the ninth, but earned his 20th save.

Martin Prado homered and Paul Goldschmidt had three hits for Arizona. Diamondbacks second baseman Aaron Hill, playing his first game since going on the disabled list April 14 with a broken left hand, went 2 for 4 with a double, single and walk.

Washington matched its season high for runs in an inning with the five-run third off starter Trevor Cahill (3-9).

Brewers 9, Cubs 3

In Milwaukee, Rickie Weeks homered twice and drove in four runs as Milwaukee beat the Chicago Cubs.

Jonathan Lucroy added a two-run double, and Juan Francisco also homered for Milwaukee, which has defeated Chicago 19 of the last 21 times at home, including nine in a row.

Kyle Lohse (3-6) gave up eight hits and three earned runs in seven innings. He struck out

three and didn't walk a batter.

Chicago's Edwin Jackson (3-10) allowed six earned runs and six hits in 4 2-3 innings to fall to 0-3 against Milwaukee this season.

Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro, mired in a 13-for-98 (.133) slump, had his streak of 269 consecutive games played end. It was the longest active run in the National League.

Marlins 4, Twins 2

In Miami, Marcell Ozuna drove in two runs and Derek Dietrich homered to help Miami top Minnesota.

A.J. Ramos (2-2) pitched two scoreless innings in relief, and Steve Cishek worked the ninth for his 13th save for the Marlins, who have won four of five.

Miami starter Jose Fernandez allowed one run and four hits in five innings. The 20-year old Fernandez struck out three and walked three. He is 2-1 with a 1.67 ERA in five June starts.

Kevin Correia (6-5) held the Marlins scoreless through five innings before running into trouble in the sixth.

Phillies 6, Padres 2

In San Diego, Domonic Brown hit his 20th home run and tied a career high with four RBIs as Philadelphia beat San Diego.

Kyle Kendrick (7-4) went eight innings, allowing two runs on seven hits with six strikeouts and no walks to earn the victory.

Jason Marquis (9-3), who had won eight straight decisions over 11 starts, went 4 1-3 innings, giving up six runs on six hits, walking five and striking out four to take the loss.

He allowed back-to-back walks on eight pitches to Ryan Howard and Brown in the fifth inning, which led to Marquis' exit from the game and contributed to three more runs by the Phillies, who took their 6-2 lead.

Dodgers 6, Giants 5

In Los Angeles, Matt Kemp made a marvelous catch for the final out in his first game back from the disabled list to preserve the Los Angeles Dodgers' victory over slumping San Francisco.

Mark Ellis and Hanley Ramirez each hit a two-run homer for the Dodgers, and rookie Stephen Fife pitched effectively into the seventh inning. Los Angeles handed the defending World Series champions their third loss in a row and eighth in 11 games, dropping them under .500 for the first time since losing to the Dodgers on opening day.

It is the latest the Giants had a losing record since 2008, when they finished 72-90 in Bruce Bochy's second year as manager.

Fife (2-2) allowed three runs and four hits, including solo homers by Brandon Belt and Buster Posey. He struck out three and walked two in his 11th major league start. It was only the second time he gave up more than two runs.

Tsunami Saipan Swimmers at Flipper Race

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center members huddle before the start of the 5th Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament held mid this month in the waters off Managaha Island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Angel De Jesus smiles after receiving her runner-up prizes.



Kensuke Kimura heads to the finish line.



Angel Marie Tan pose with her first place prizes in the women's division.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers wait for the start of the awards ceremony.



From left, Miku Tammy, Angel De Jesus, and Angel Marie Tan pose in front of the event banner.



Overall first place finisher Kensuke Kimura poses with his prizes.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers do stretching drills before the race.



Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, second right, gives instructions to his swimmers while waiting for the start of the event.



Juhn Tenorio, left, and Jhota Yoshino pose for a photo after the race.

Back on court,
Williams stretches
winning streak

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Suzuki lifts
Yankees over
Texas with
HR in 9th

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI romps past Palau in MBT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals cruised to a 51-37 victory over Palau in the women's division of the 2013 U19 Micronesian Basketball Tournament last Tuesday night at the Father Duenas Memorial School Phoenix Centre in Hagatna.

The win was second in as many games for the Preston Basa-coached CNMI cagebells, who also notched a double-digit triumph against Guam U16, 45-29, during the MBT opener last Sunday. After its 14-point win over Palau, the CNMI has one game left in the preliminary round and was set to play Guam

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New tandem triumphs in IT&E badminton tourney



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Oh Im Bog makes a return, while teammate Alma Ortega stays at the backcourt during their semis game against Brandon Talania and Toshiko Obata in the mixed doubles B division of the IT&E badminton tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Oh Im Bog and Alma Ortega teamed up for the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament and emerged victorious in the mixed doubles B division.

Oh and Ortega clinched the mixed doubles B crown after surviving Windy Fernandez and Chris Hilario in a three-game finale last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex. Fernandez and Hilario drew first blood in the finals, posting a 21-16 win in the opening game, however Oh and Ortega recovered quickly and went on to sweep the last two games, 21-18, 21-17, to

grab the championship.

The doubles win last weekend was second for Oh and Ortega in the same tournament. Last year, Oh partnered with Toshiko Obata and they won the mixed doubles B title against the father-and-daughter tandem of Jojo and Jen Savellano, 21-8, 21-16. Ortega partnered with her husband, Joel, in the mixed doubles C last season and they took the championship over the duo of Brandon Talania and Roma Barla, 11-21, 21-13, 22-20.

This year's eventual champions also came from a three-game semis win over Talania and Obata last Saturday. Oh and Ortega dropped the opening game, See NEW on Page 26



Rachel Abrams, seen here going for an inside shot during a women's league last year at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium, scored 24 points in the CNMI's 51-37 win over Palau in the 2013 U19 Micronesian Basketball Tournament last Tuesday night at the Father Duenas Memorial School Phoenix Centre in Hagatna.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ASPAC schedule out; CNMI eyes revenge

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The schedule of games in the 2013 Asia Pacific-Middle East Baseball Tournament has been released with the CNMI aiming to have a better performance in the elimination round this time to boost its chances for a World Series trip.

The Commonwealth bet, who failed to play in the World Series last year despite field-

See ASPAC on Page 26



CNMI Senior All-Stars shortstop AJ Lizama throws the ball after making a diving catch against Guam during the 2012 Little League Baseball Asia Pacific Regional Tournament in July last year at the Paseo Stadium in Guam. The CNMI sluggers are heading to the Philippines this weekend for the World Series qualifier.

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